PEACH MOMOKO

霧咲山
DEMON DAYS

MARVEL

霧咲山
DEMON DAYS

Welcome to a world filled with demons and spirits, monsters and magic. This is the Marvel Universe like you've never seen it before.

This is…

DEMON DAYS

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PEACH MOMOKO

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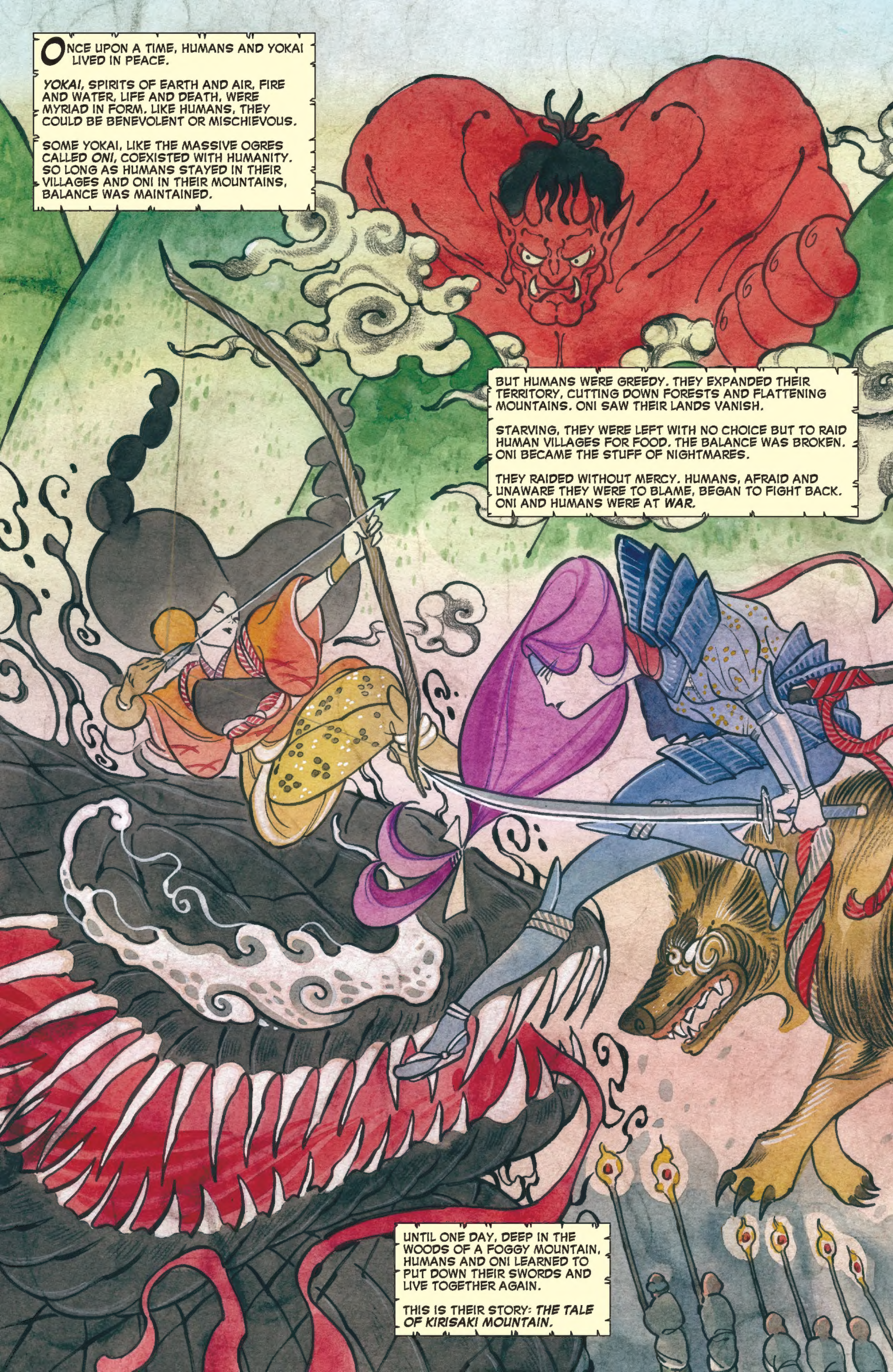
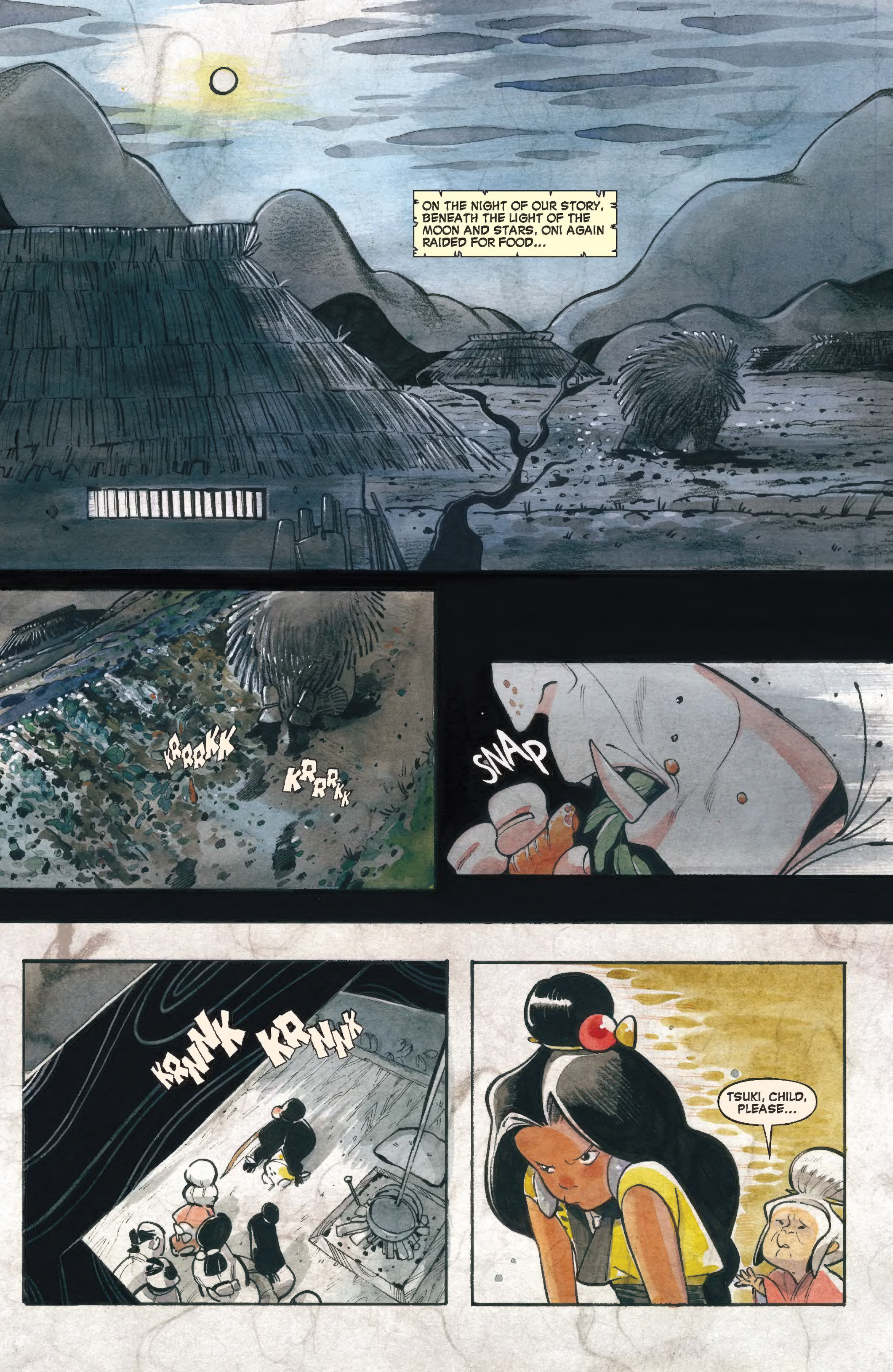
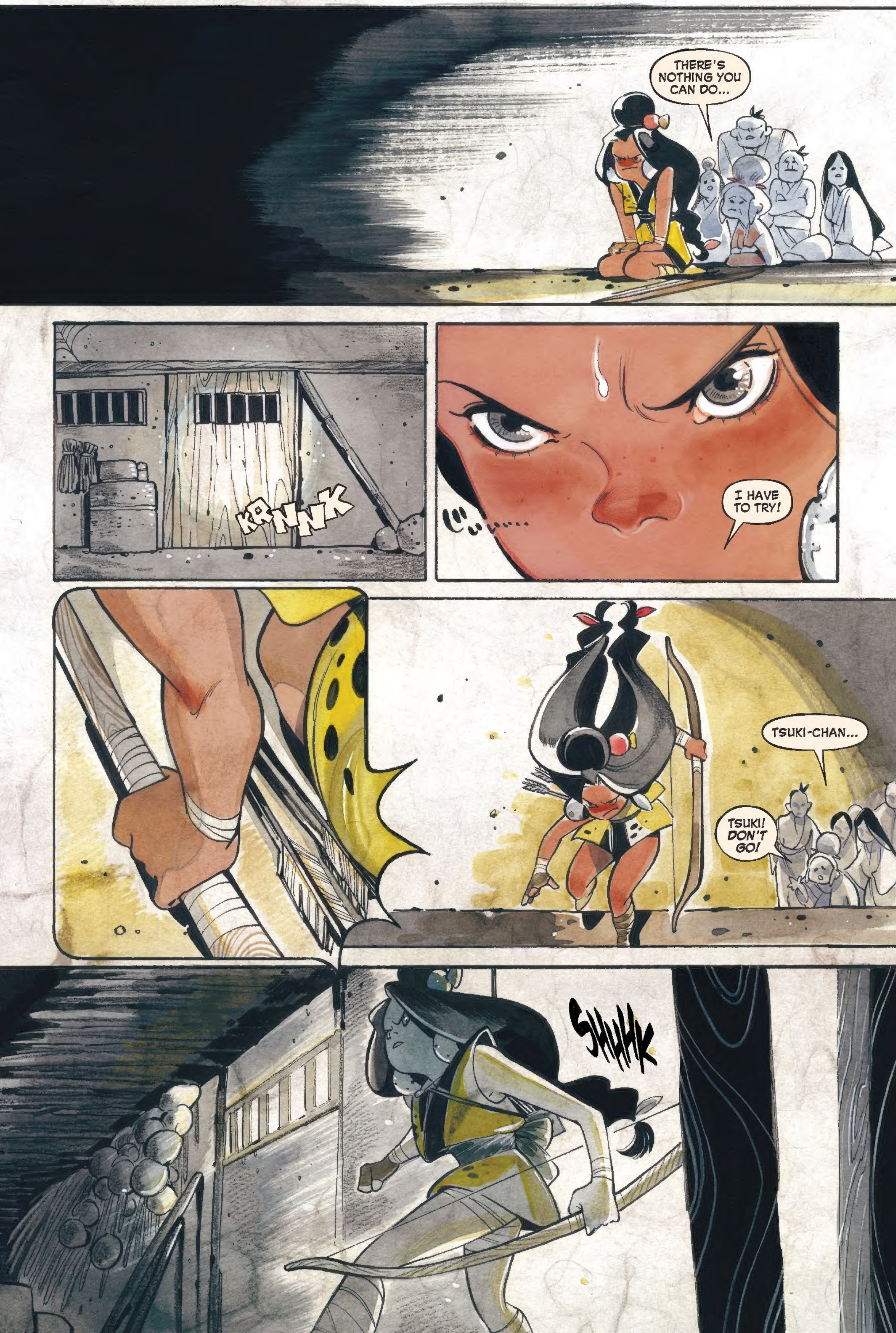
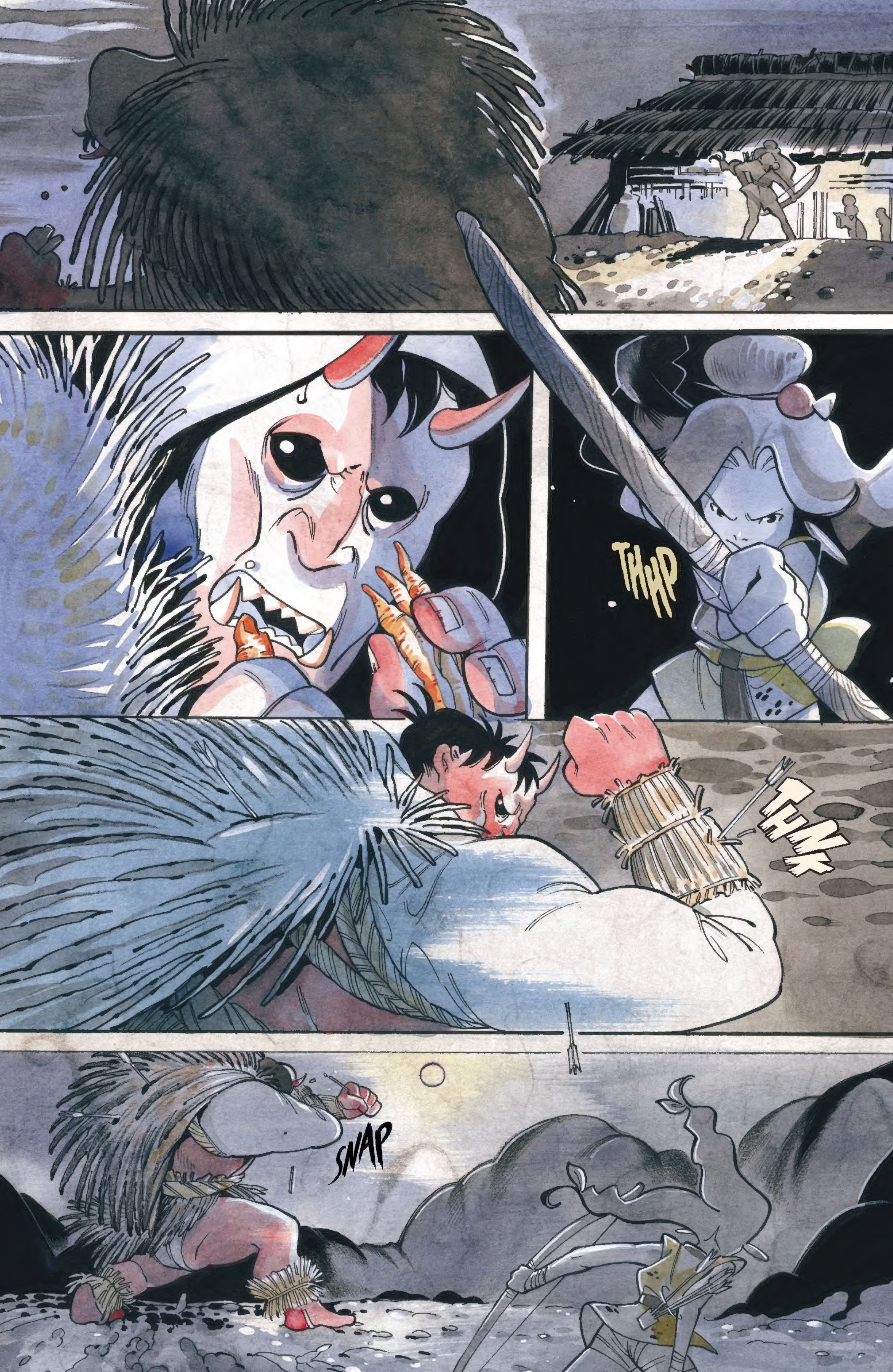
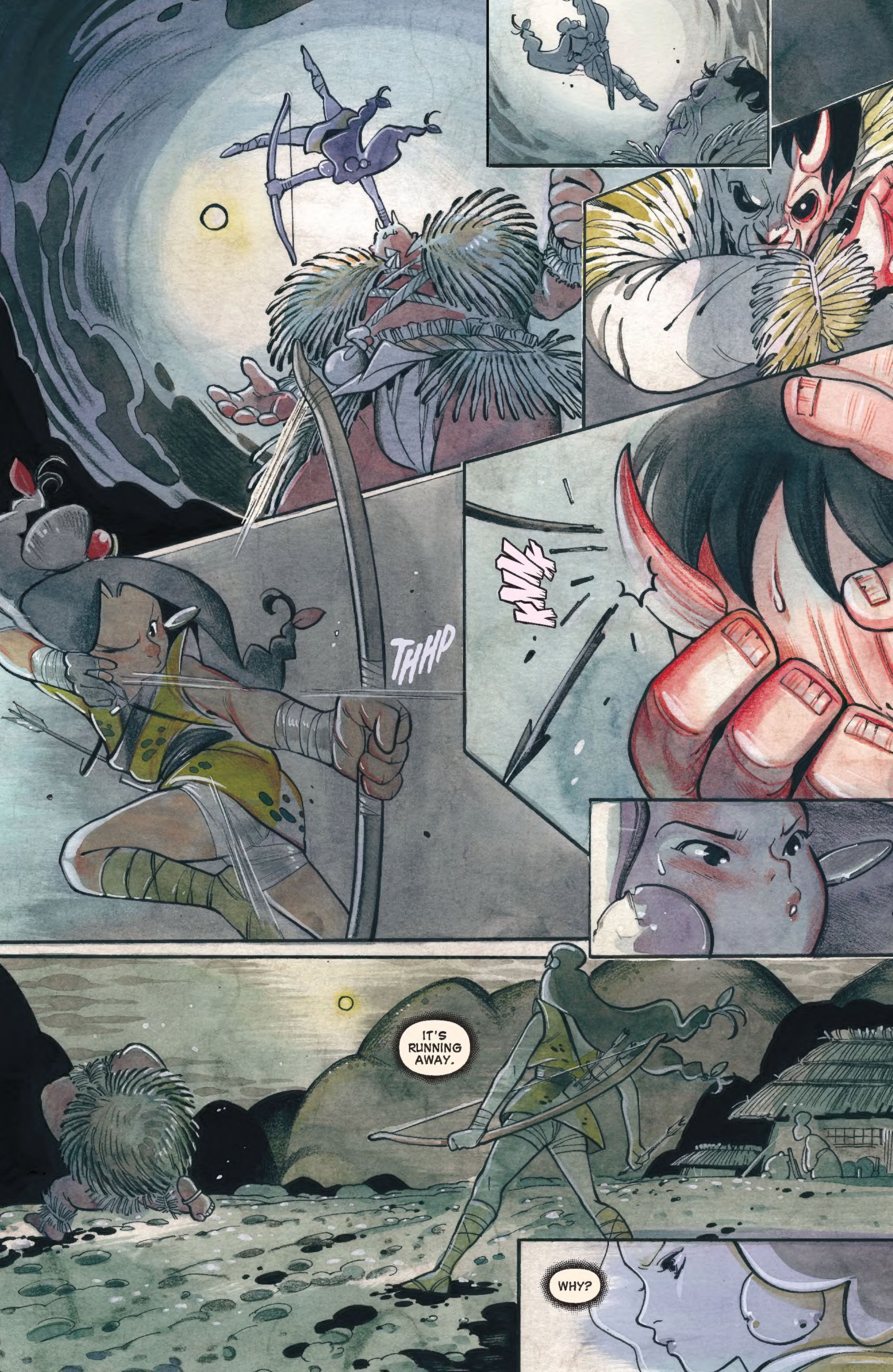
DEMON DAYS
X-MEN

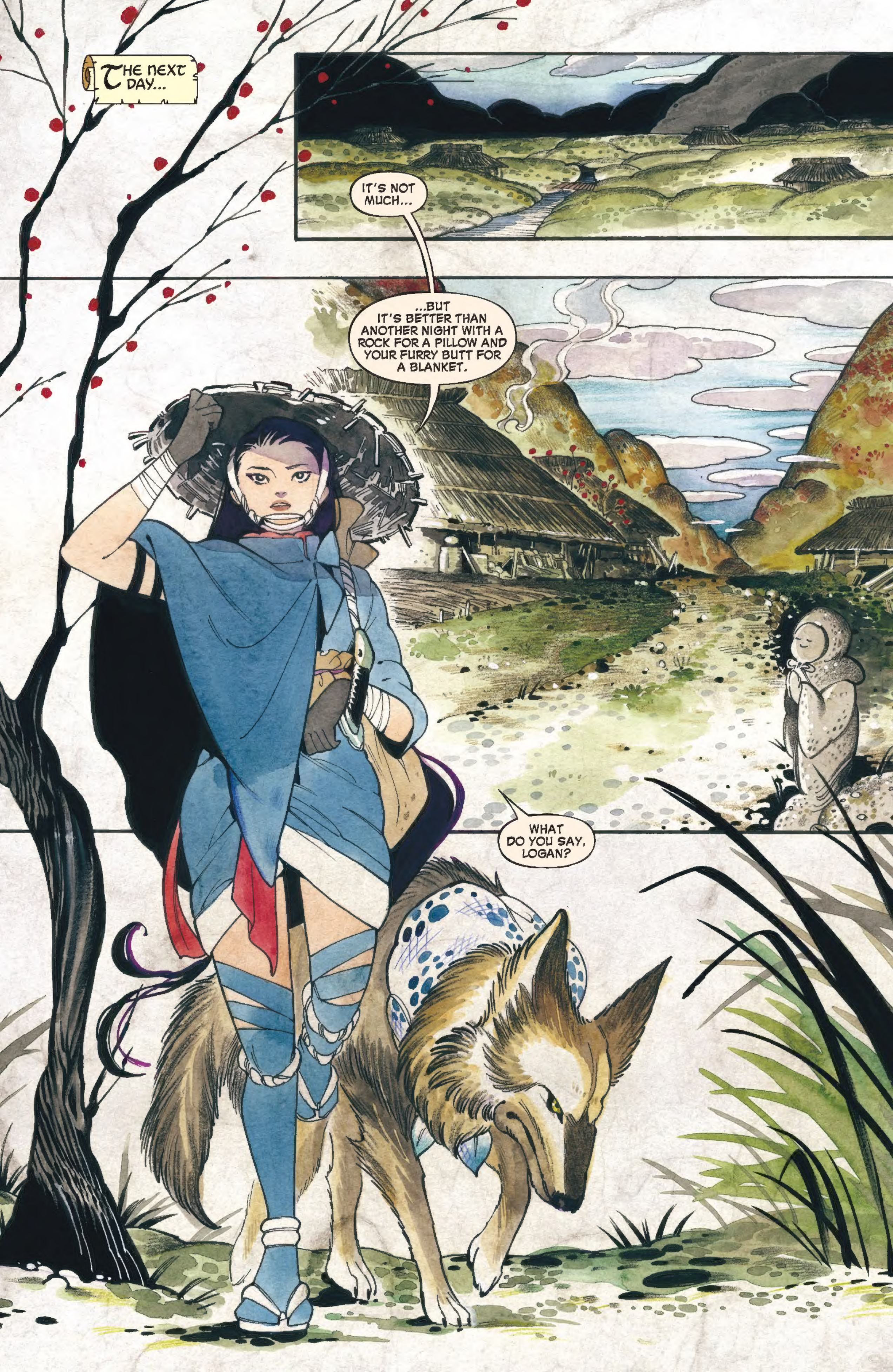

ONCE UPON A TIME, HUMANS AND YOKAI LIVED IN PEACE.
YOKAI, SPIRITS OF EARTH AND AIR, FIRE AND WATER, LIFE AND DEATH, WERE MYRIAD IN FORM. LIKE HUMANS, THEY COULD BE BENEVOLENT OR MISCHIEVOUS.
SOME YOKAI, LIKE THE MASSIVE OGRES CALLED *ONI*, COEXISTED WITH HUMANITY. SO LONG AS HUMANS STAYED IN THEIR VILLAGES AND ONI IN THEIR MOUNTAINS, BALANCE WAS MAINTAINED.
BUT HUMANS WERE GREEDY. THEY EXPANDED THEIR TERRITORY, CUTTING DOWN FORESTS AND FLATTENING MOUNTAINS. ONI SAW THEIR LANDS VANISH.
STARVING, THEY WERE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO RAID HUMAN VILLAGES FOR FOOD. THE BALANCE WAS BROKEN. ONI BECAME THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES.
THEY RAIDED WITHOUT MERCY. HUMANS, AFRAID AND UNAWARE THEY WERE TO BLAME, BEGAN TO FIGHT BACK. ONI AND HUMANS WERE AT *WAR*.
UNTIL ONE DAY, DEEP IN THE WOODS OF A FOGGY MOUNTAIN, HUMANS AND ONI LEARNED TO PUT DOWN THEIR SWORDS AND LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN.
THIS IS THEIR STORY: *THE TALE OF KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN.*

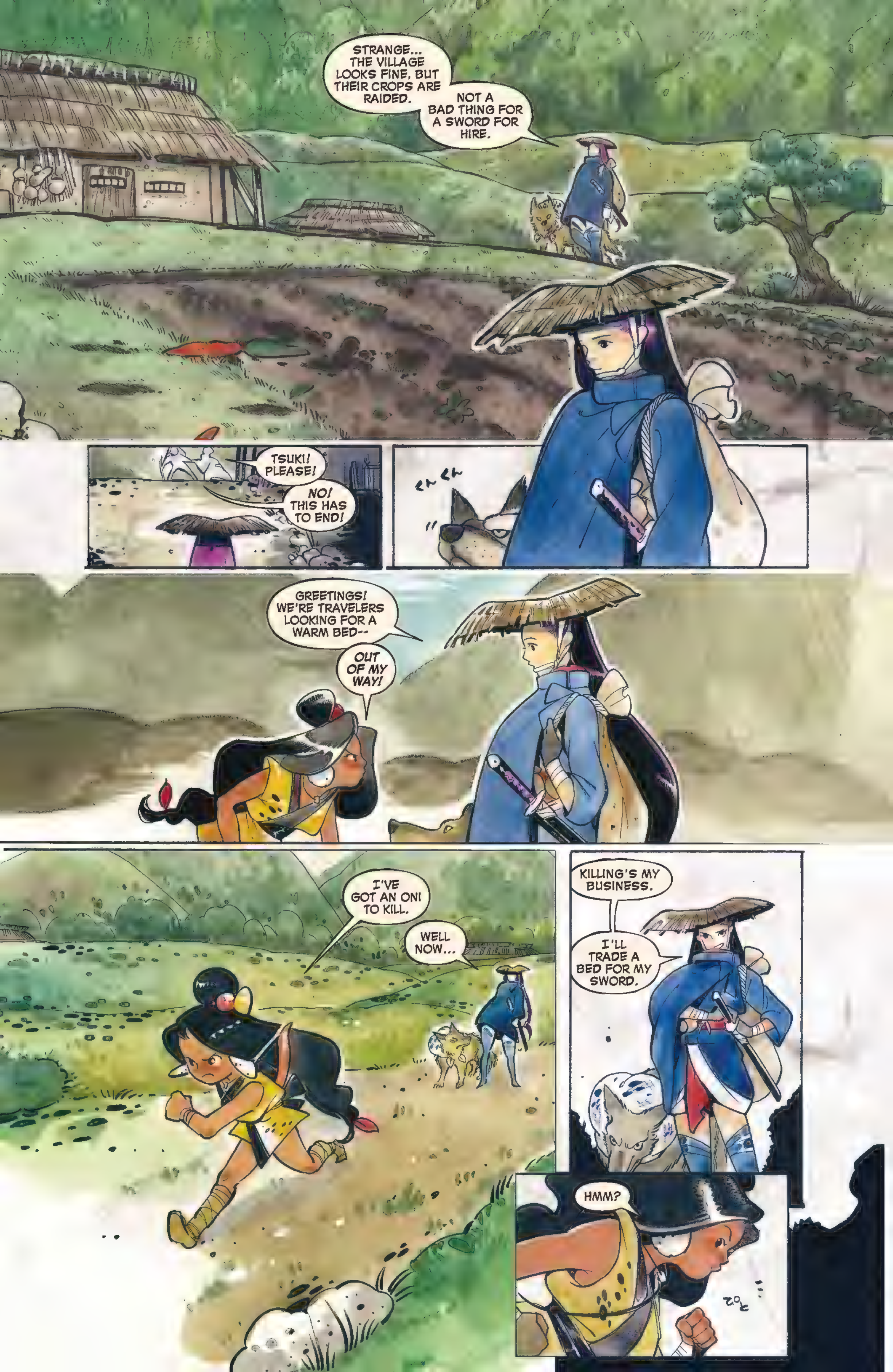

ON THE NIGHT OF OUR STORY, BENEATH THE LIGHT OF THE MOON AND STARS, ONI AGAIN RAIDED FOR FOOD...
KRRRKK
KRRRKK
SNAP
KRNNK
KRNNK
TSUKI, CHILD, PLEASE...

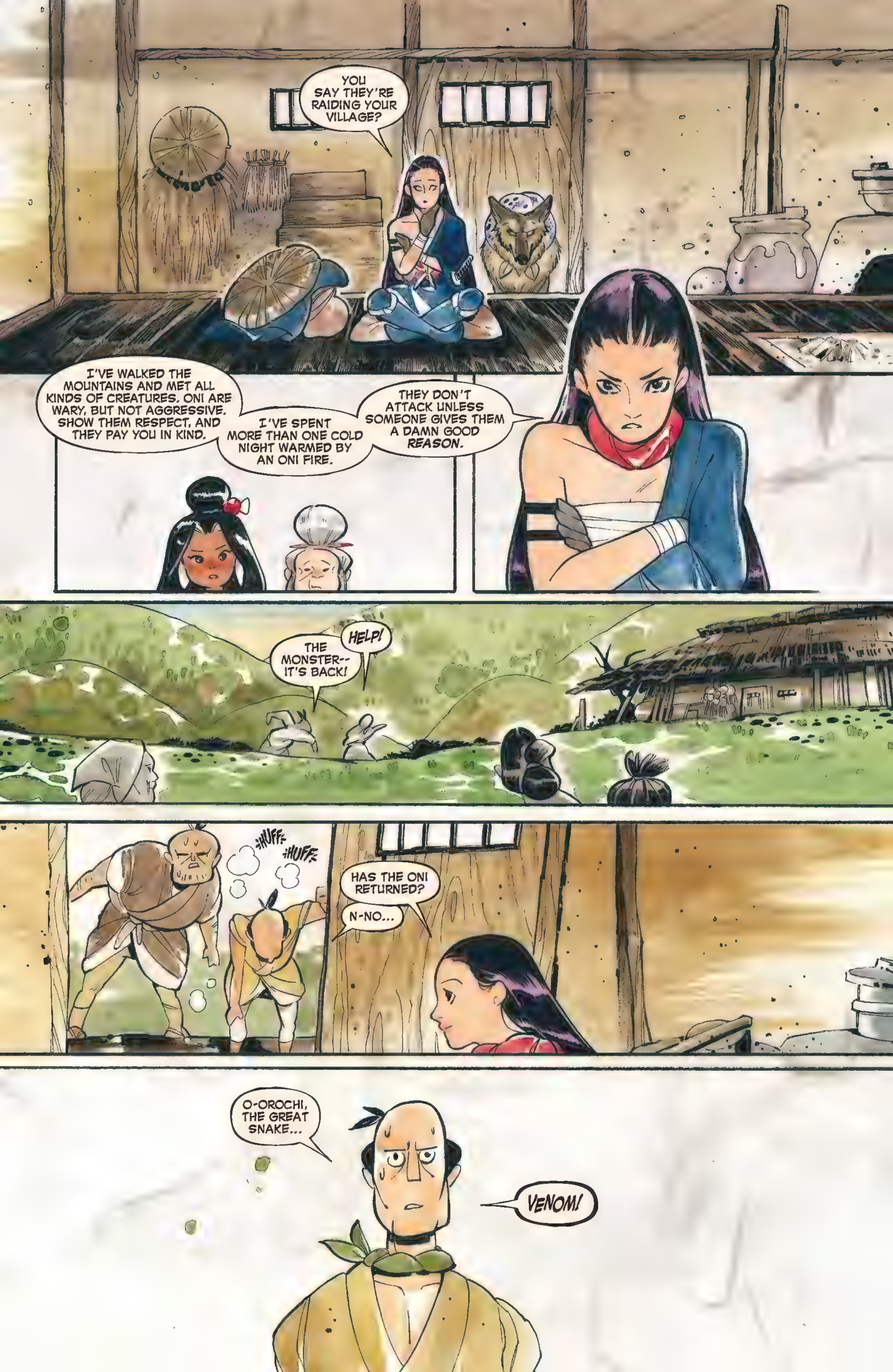

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO...
KRNNNK
じぃぃ……
I HAVE TO TRY!
TSUKI-CHAN...
TSUKI! DON'T GO!
SHHHK

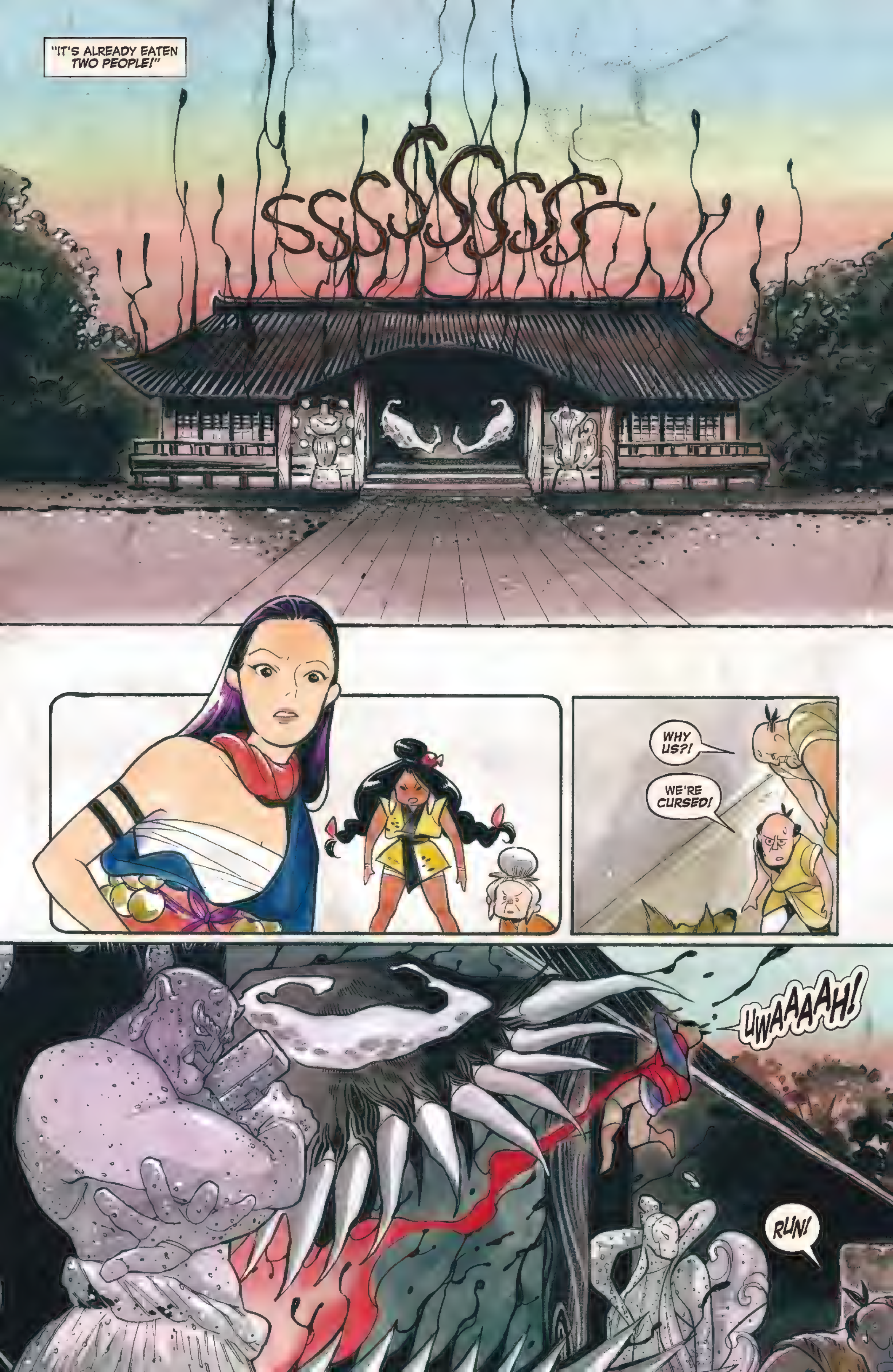

THWP
THNK
SNAP

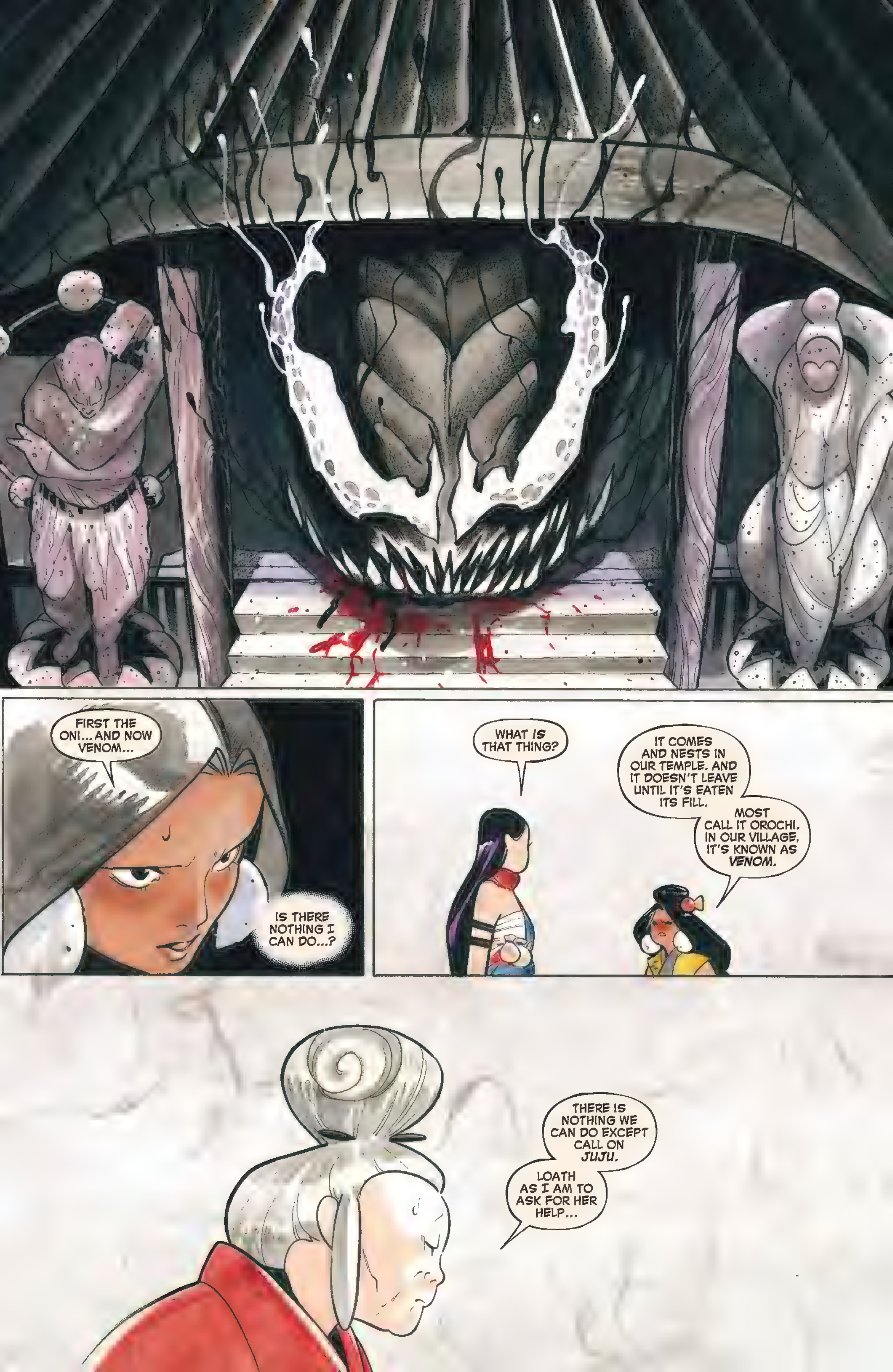

THHP
KNK
IT'S RUNNING AWAY.
WHY?

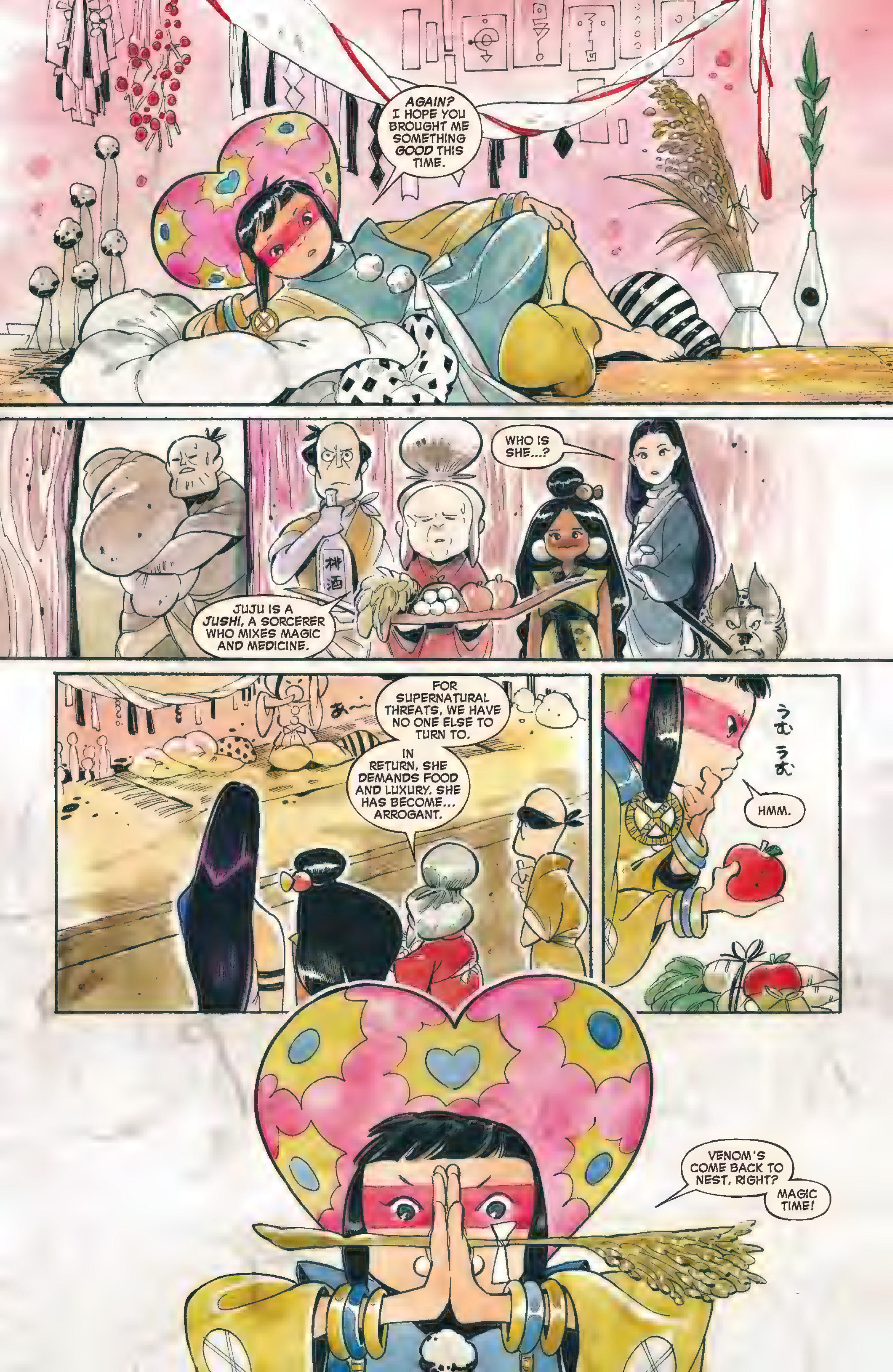

THE NEXT DAY...
IT'S NOT MUCH...
...BUT IT'S BETTER THAN ANOTHER NIGHT WITH A ROCK FOR A PILLOW AND YOUR FURRY BUTT FOR A BLANKET.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, LOGAN?

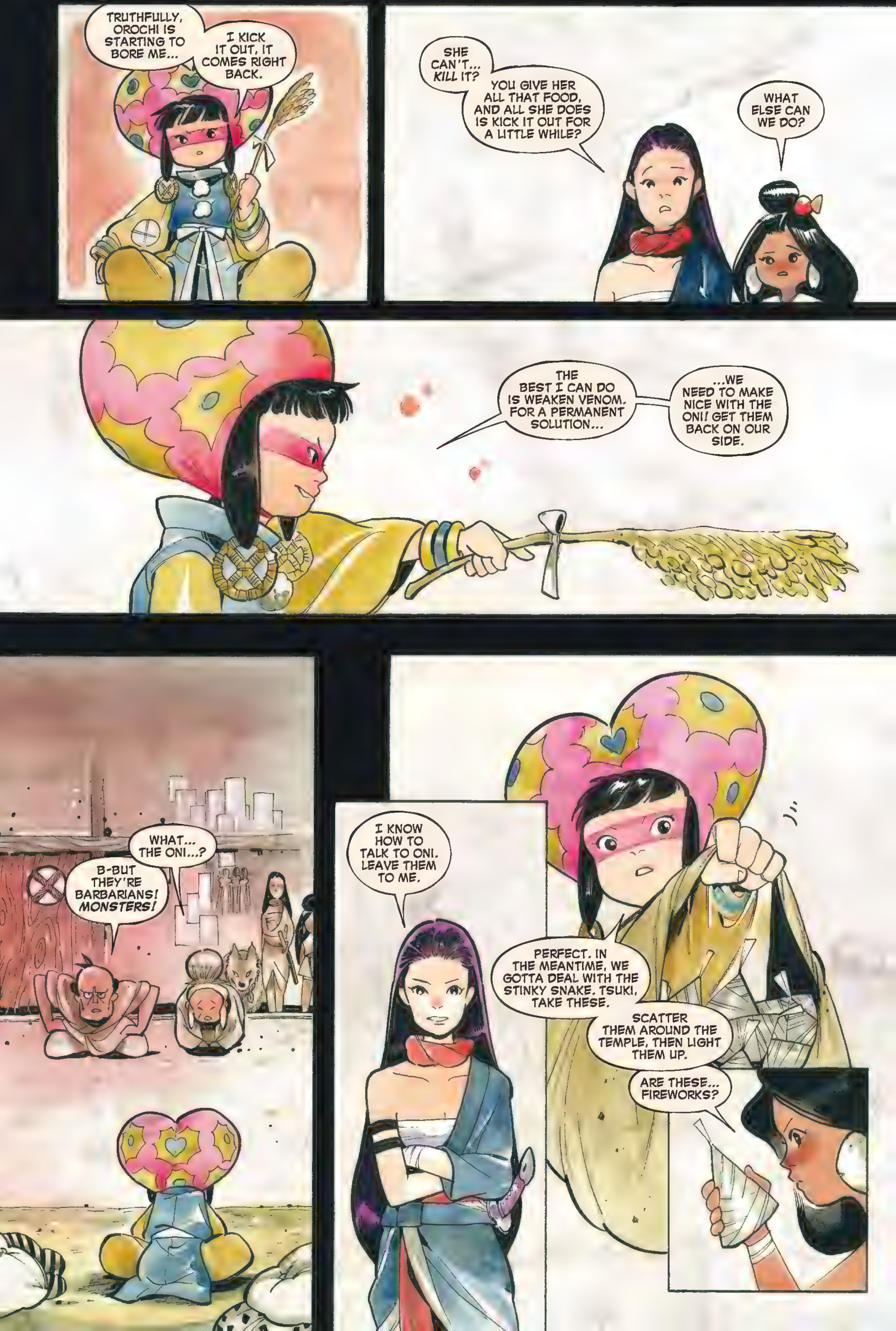

STRANGE... THE VILLAGE LOOKS FINE, BUT THEIR CROPS ARE RAIDED.
NOT A BAD THING FOR A SWORD FOR HIRE.
TSUKI! PLEASE!
NO! THIS HAS TO END!
くんくん
GREETINGS! WE'RE TRAVELERS LOOKING FOR A WARM BED--
OUT OF MY WAY!
I'VE GOT AN ONI TO KILL.
WELL NOW...
KILLING'S MY BUSINESS.
I'LL TRADE A BED FOR MY SWORD.
HMM?
ぴと

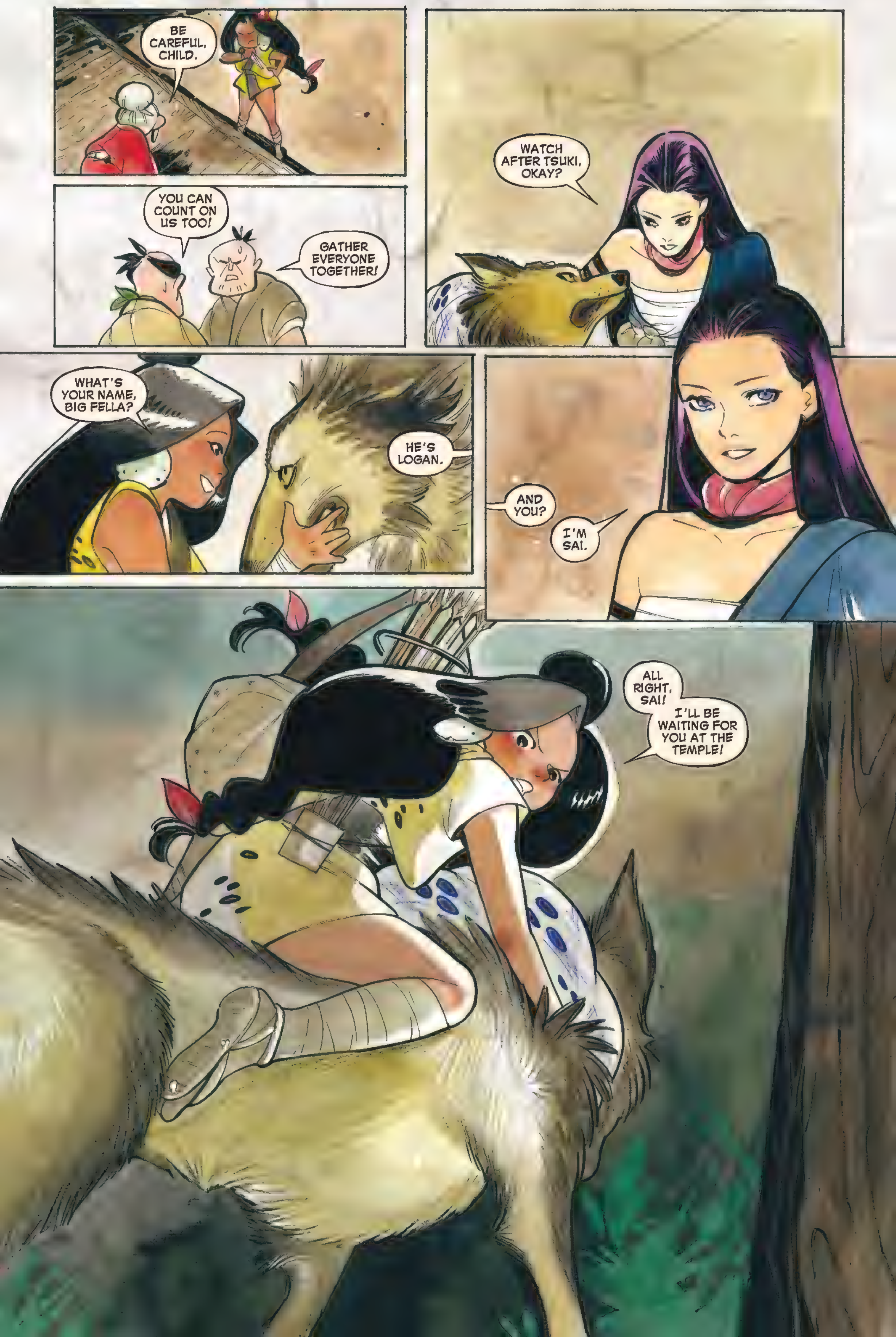

YOU SAY THEY'RE RAIDING YOUR VILLAGE?
I'VE WALKED THE MOUNTAINS AND MET ALL KINDS OF CREATURES. ONI ARE WARY, BUT NOT AGGRESSIVE. SHOW THEM RESPECT, AND THEY PAY YOU IN KIND.
I'VE SPENT MORE THAN ONE COLD NIGHT WARMED BY AN ONI FIRE.
THEY DON'T ATTACK UNLESS SOMEONE GIVES THEM A DAMN GOOD *REASON*.
THE MONSTER-- IT'S BACK!
HELP!
HUFF
HUFF
HAS THE ONI RETURNED?
N-NO...
O-OROCHI, THE GREAT SNAKE...
VENOM!

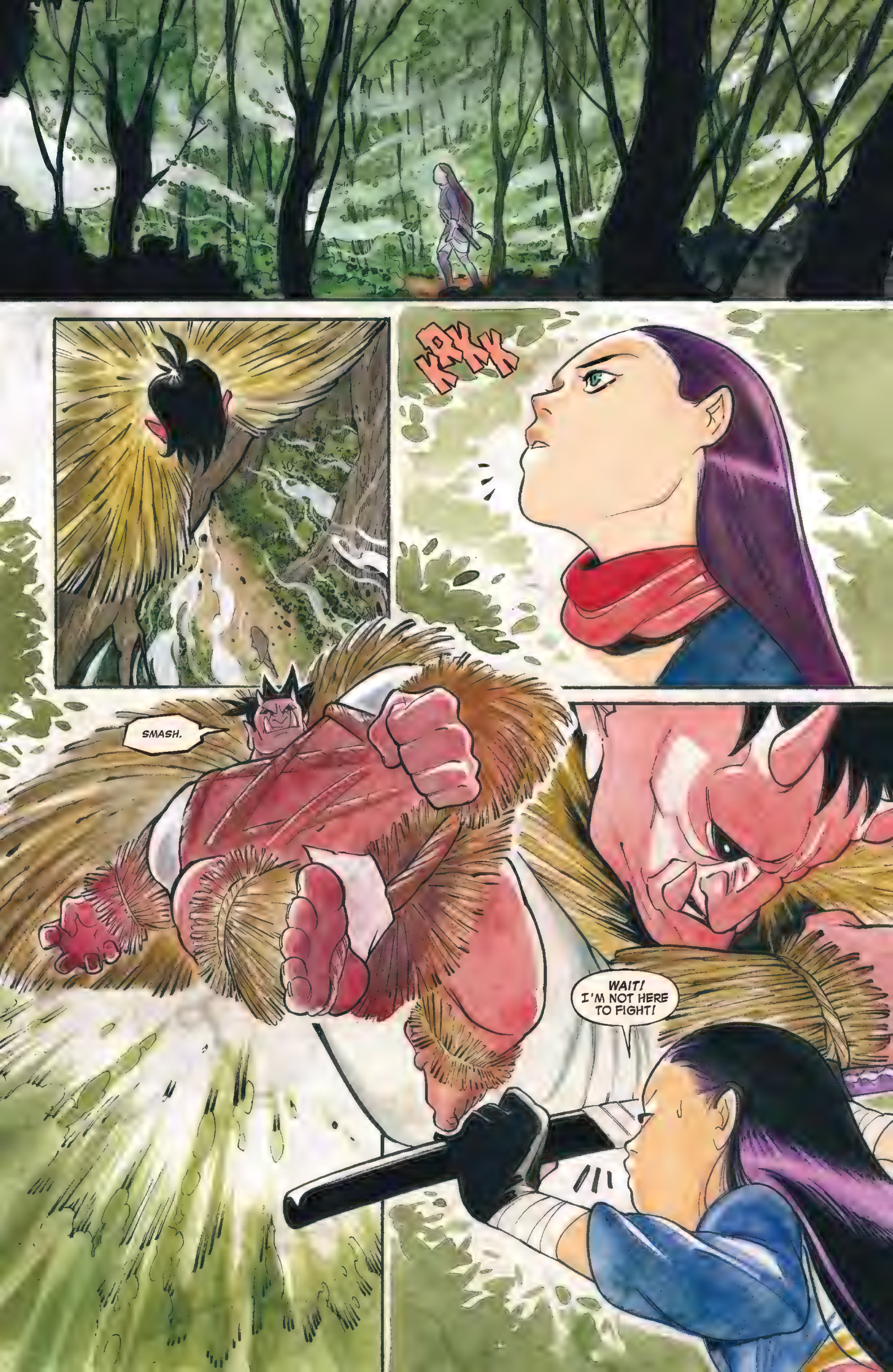

"IT'S ALREADY EATEN TWO PEOPLE!"
SSSSSSSS
WHY US?!
WE'RE CURSED!
UWAAAAH!
RUN!

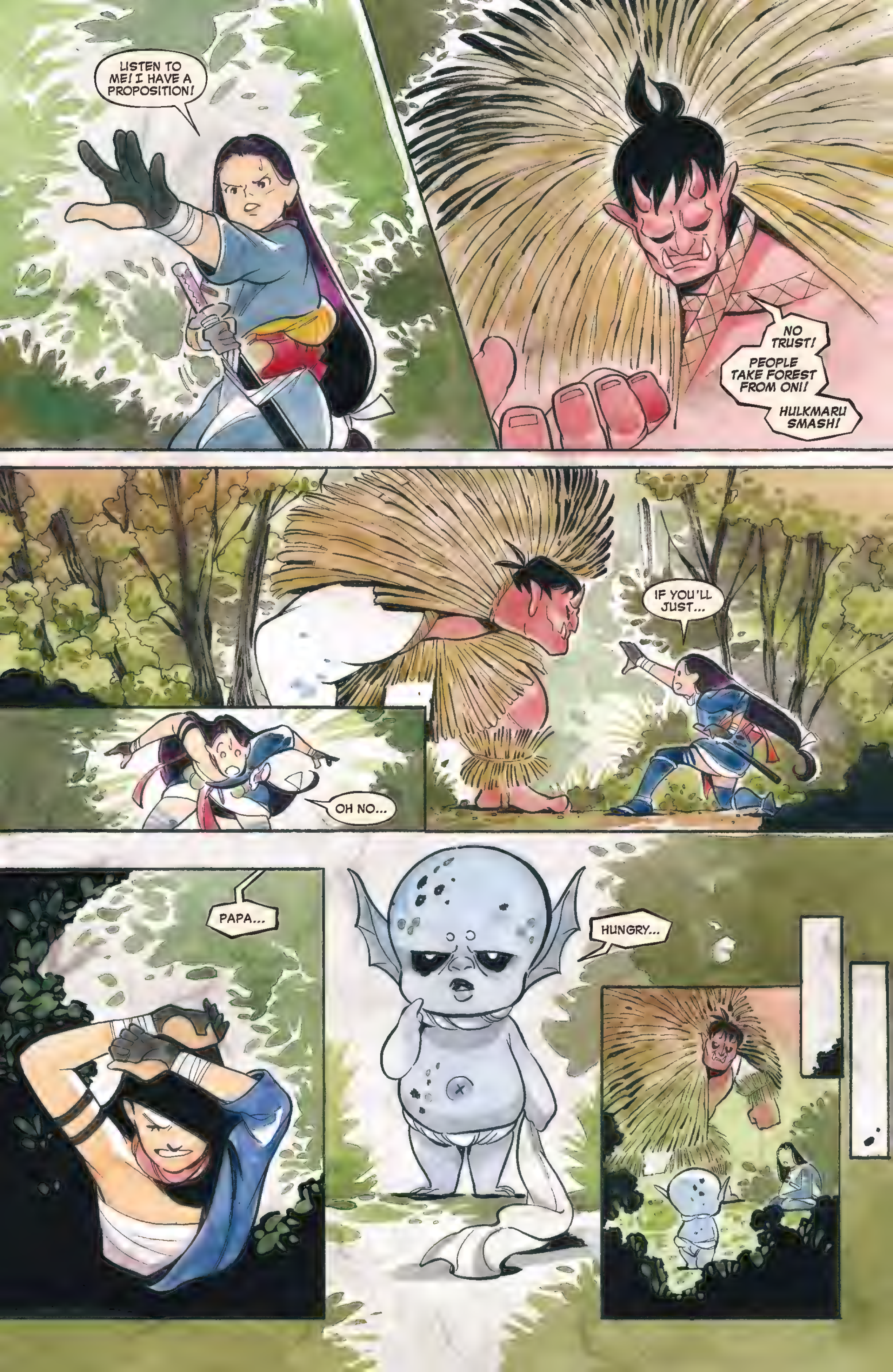

FIRST THE ONI...AND NOW VENOM...
IS THERE NOTHING I CAN DO...?
WHAT *IS* THAT THING?
IT COMES AND NESTS IN OUR TEMPLE. AND IT DOESN'T LEAVE UNTIL IT'S EATEN ITS FILL.
MOST CALL IT OROCHI. IN OUR VILLAGE, IT'S KNOWN AS *VENOM.*
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO EXCEPT CALL ON *JUJU.*
LOATH AS I AM TO ASK FOR HER HELP...

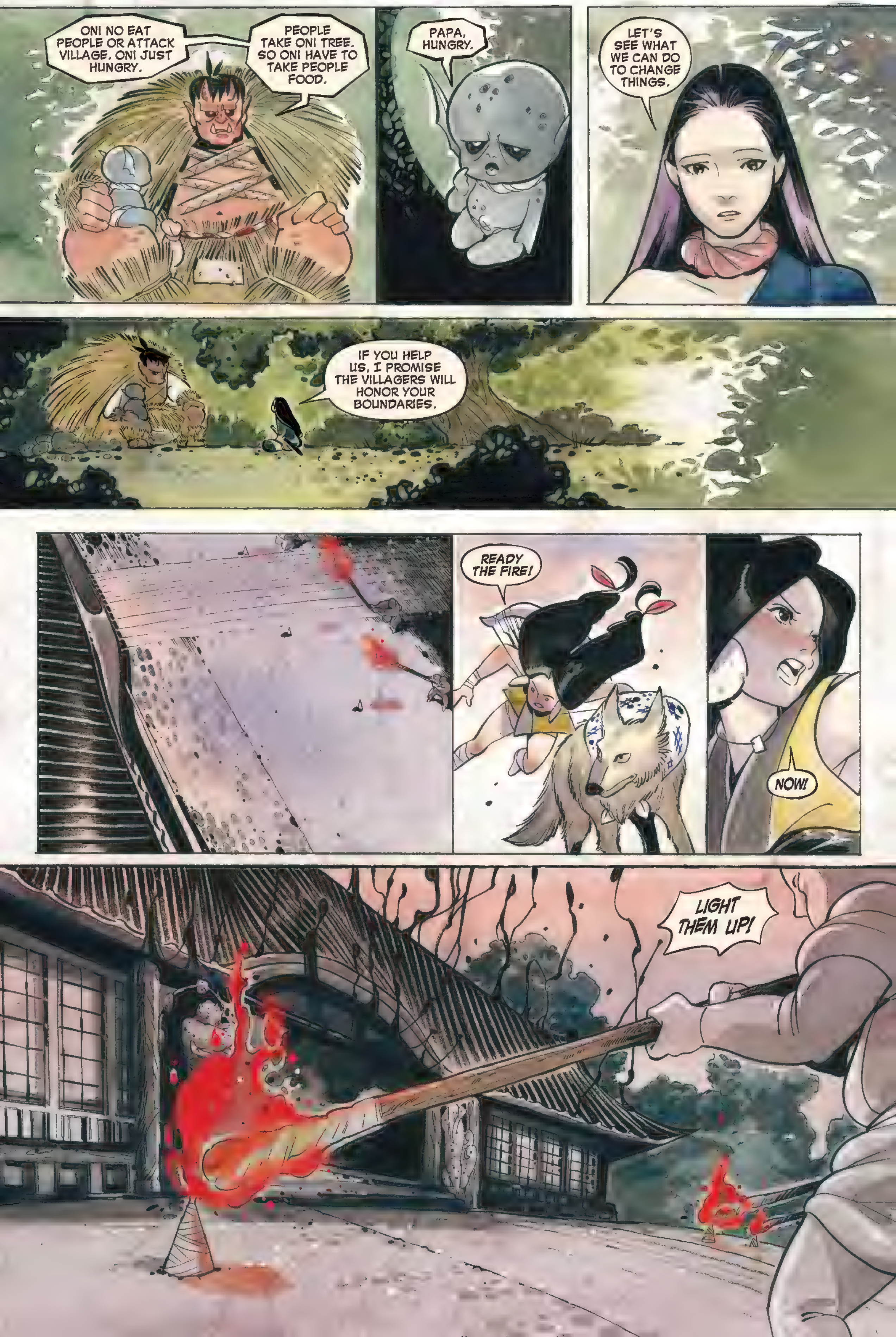

AGAIN? I HOPE YOU BROUGHT ME SOMETHING *GOOD* THIS TIME.
WHO IS SHE...?
桝酒
JUJU IS A *JUSHI*, A SORCERER WHO MIXES MAGIC AND MEDICINE.
あ〜
FOR SUPERNATURAL THREATS, WE HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO.
IN RETURN, SHE DEMANDS FOOD AND LUXURY. SHE HAS BECOME... ARROGANT.
うむ うむ
HMM.
VENOM'S COME BACK TO NEST, RIGHT?
MAGIC TIME!

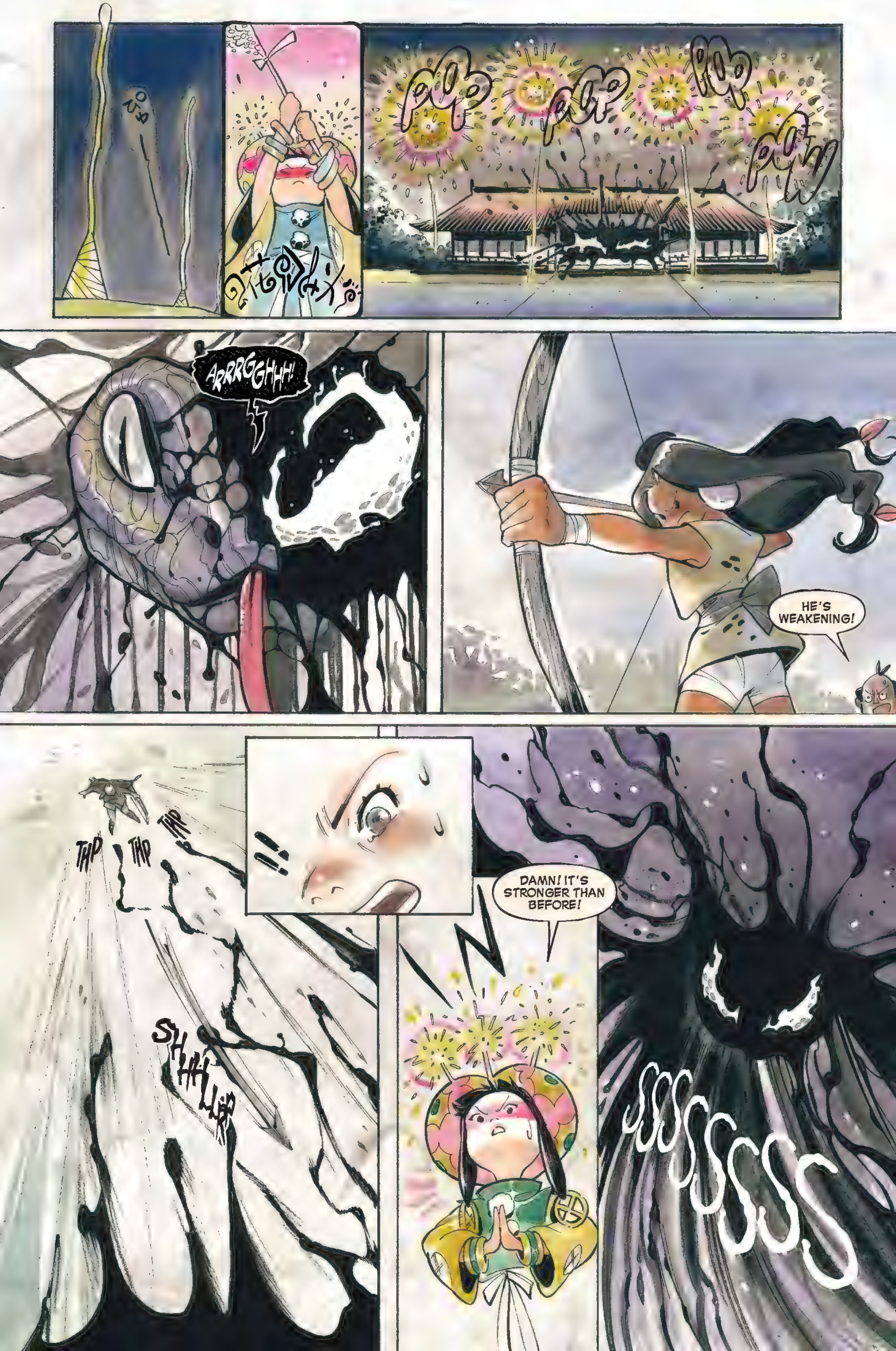

TRUTHFULLY, OROCHI IS STARTING TO BORE ME...
I KICK IT OUT, IT COMES RIGHT BACK.
SHE CAN'T... *KILL* IT?
YOU GIVE HER ALL THAT FOOD, AND ALL SHE DOES IS KICK IT OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
THE BEST I CAN DO IS WEAKEN VENOM. FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION...
...WE NEED TO MAKE NICE WITH THE ONI! GET THEM BACK ON OUR SIDE.
WHAT... THE ONI...?
B-BUT THEY'RE BARBARIANS! *MONSTERS!*
I KNOW HOW TO TALK TO ONI. LEAVE THEM TO ME.
PERFECT. IN THE MEANTIME, WE GOTTA DEAL WITH THE STINKY SNAKE. TSUKI, TAKE THESE.
SCATTER THEM AROUND THE TEMPLE, THEN LIGHT THEM UP.
ARE THESE... FIREWORKS?

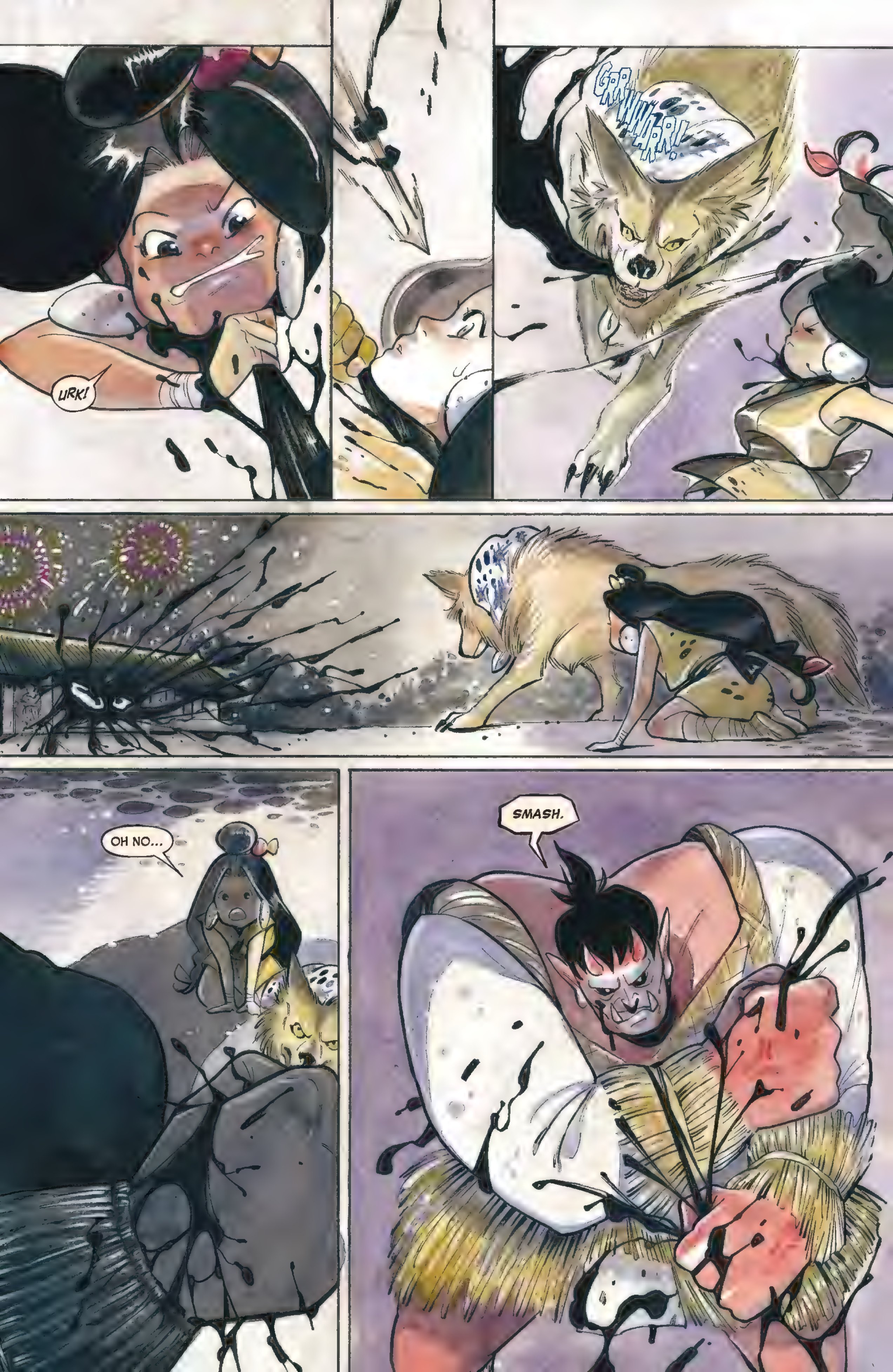

BE CAREFUL, CHILD.
YOU CAN COUNT ON US TOO!
GATHER EVERYONE TOGETHER!
WATCH AFTER TSUKI, OKAY?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BIG FELLA?
HE'S LOGAN.
AND YOU?
I'M SAI.
ALL RIGHT, SAI!
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE TEMPLE!

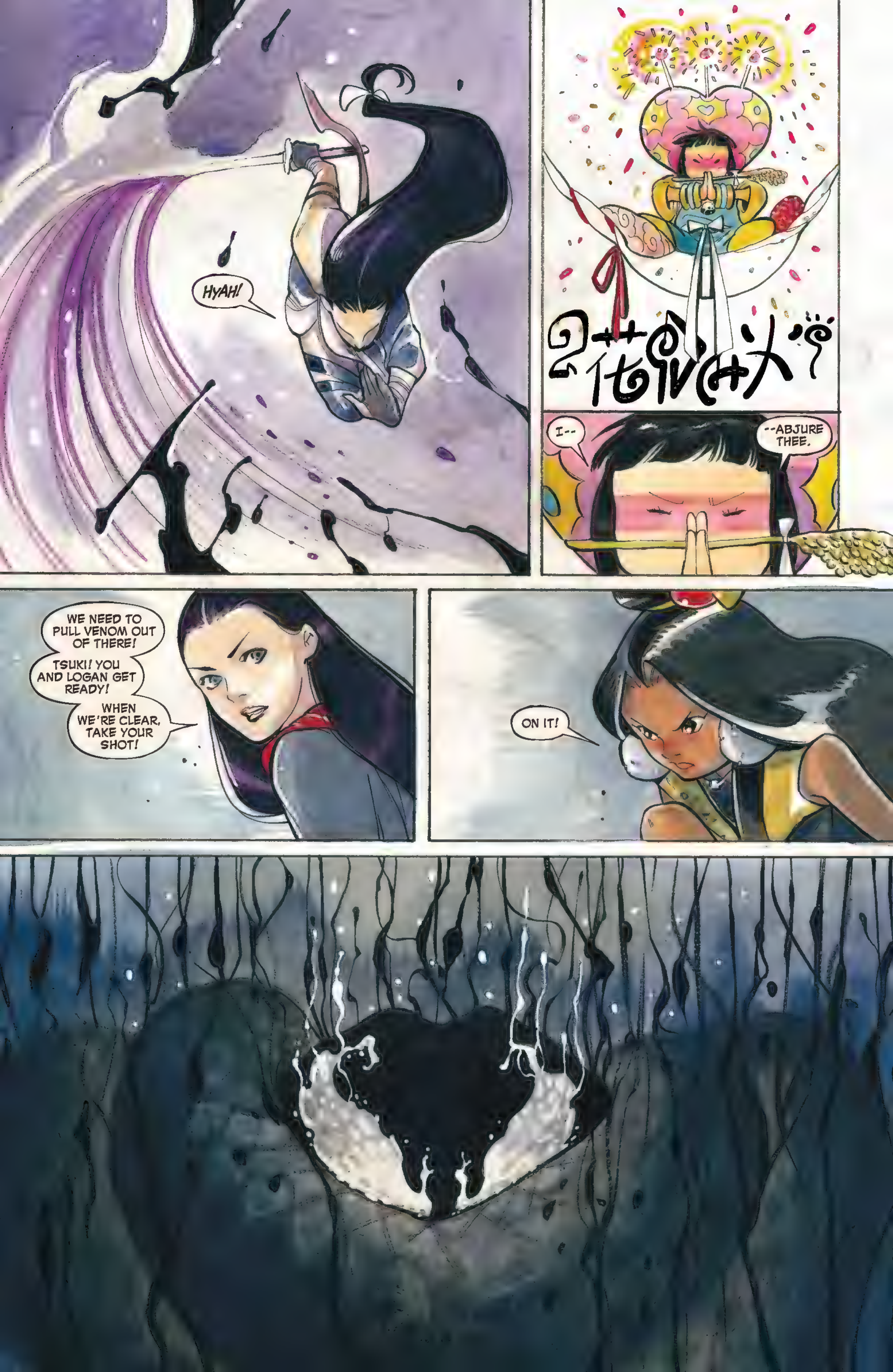

KRKK
SMASH.
WAIT! I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT!

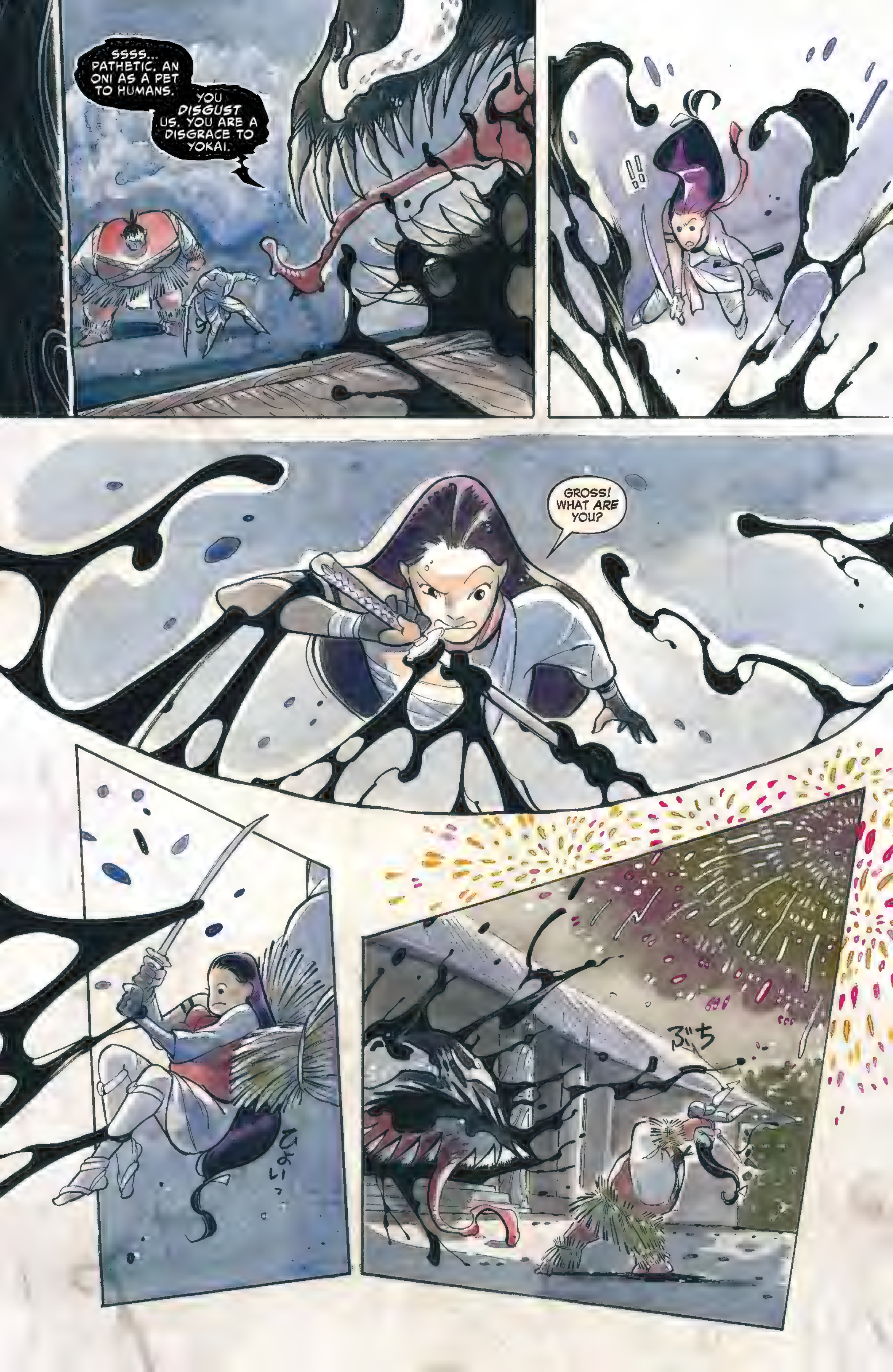

LISTEN TO ME! I HAVE A PROPOSITION!
NO TRUST!
PEOPLE TAKE FOREST FROM ONI!
HULKMARU SMASH!
IF YOU'LL JUST...
OH NO...
PAPA...
HUNGRY...

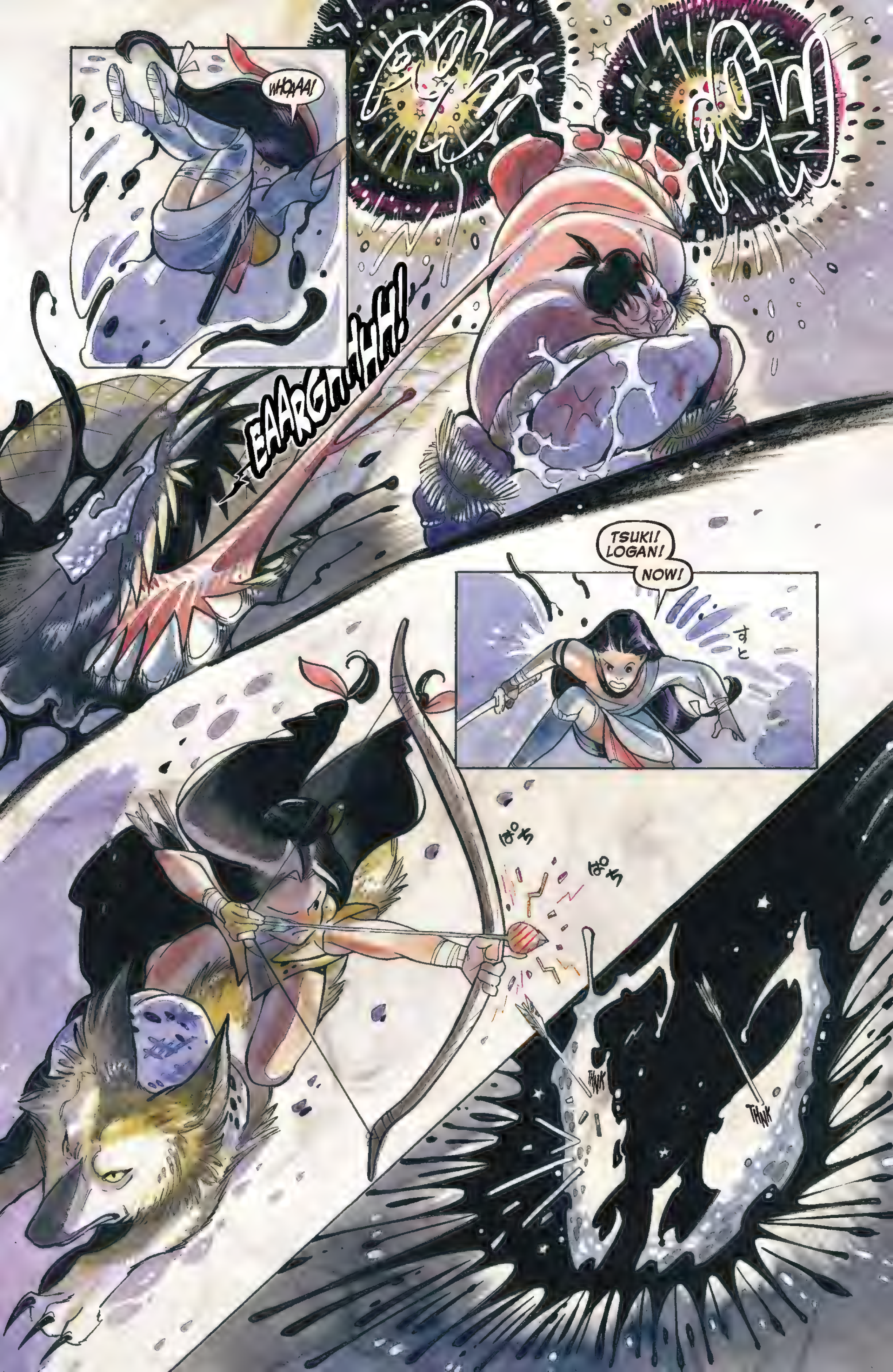

ONI NO EAT PEOPLE OR ATTACK VILLAGE. ONI JUST HUNGRY.
PEOPLE TAKE ONI TREE. SO ONI HAVE TO TAKE PEOPLE FOOD.
PAPA, HUNGRY.
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THINGS.
IF YOU HELP US, I PROMISE THE VILLAGERS WILL HONOR YOUR BOUNDARIES.
READY THE FIRE!
NOW!
LIGHT THEM UP!

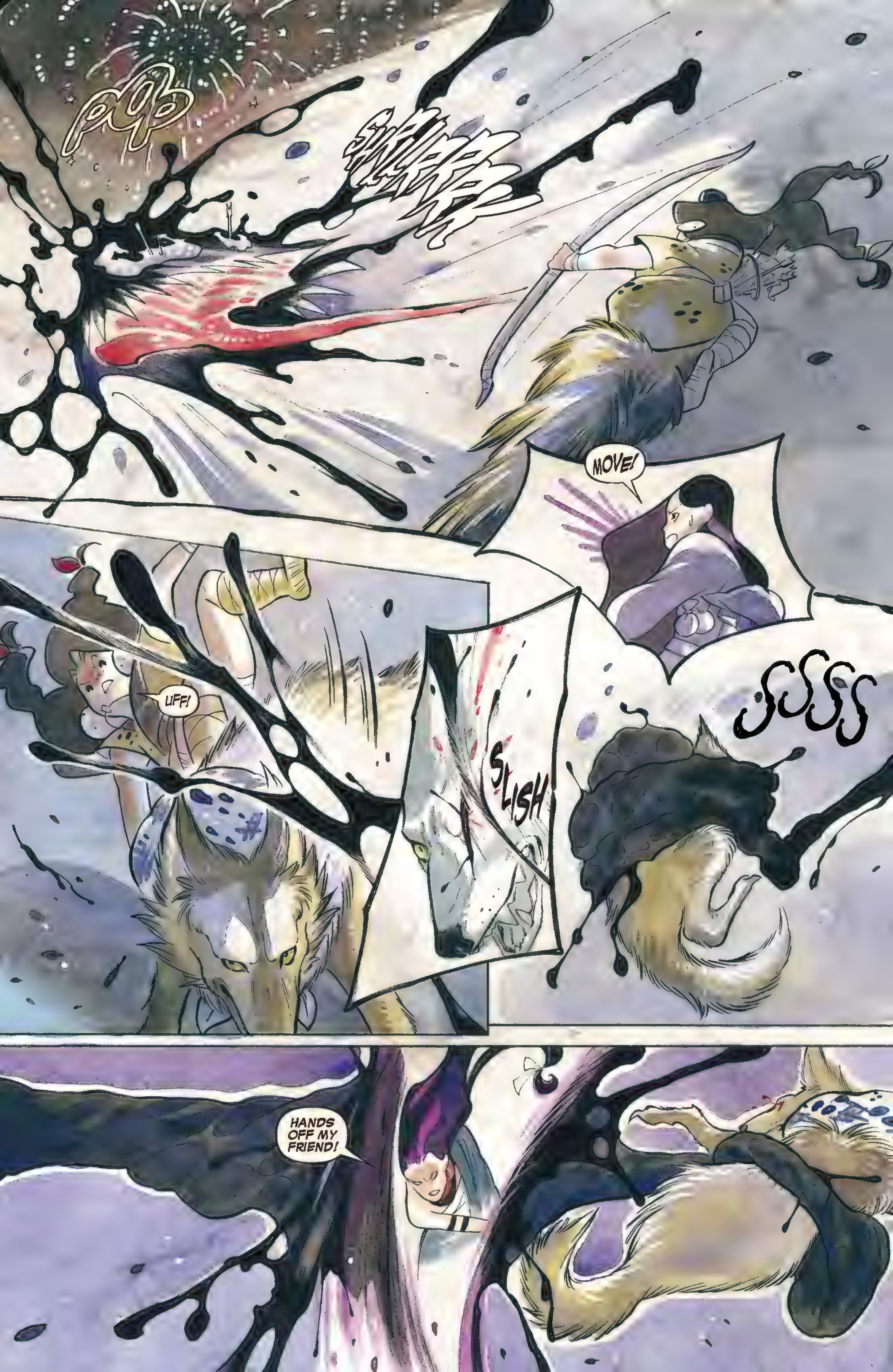

POP
POP
POP
POW
ARRRGGHHH!
HE'S WEAKENING!
THP
THP
THP
SHHHLLRP
DAMN! IT'S STRONGER THAN BEFORE!
SSSSSSSSS

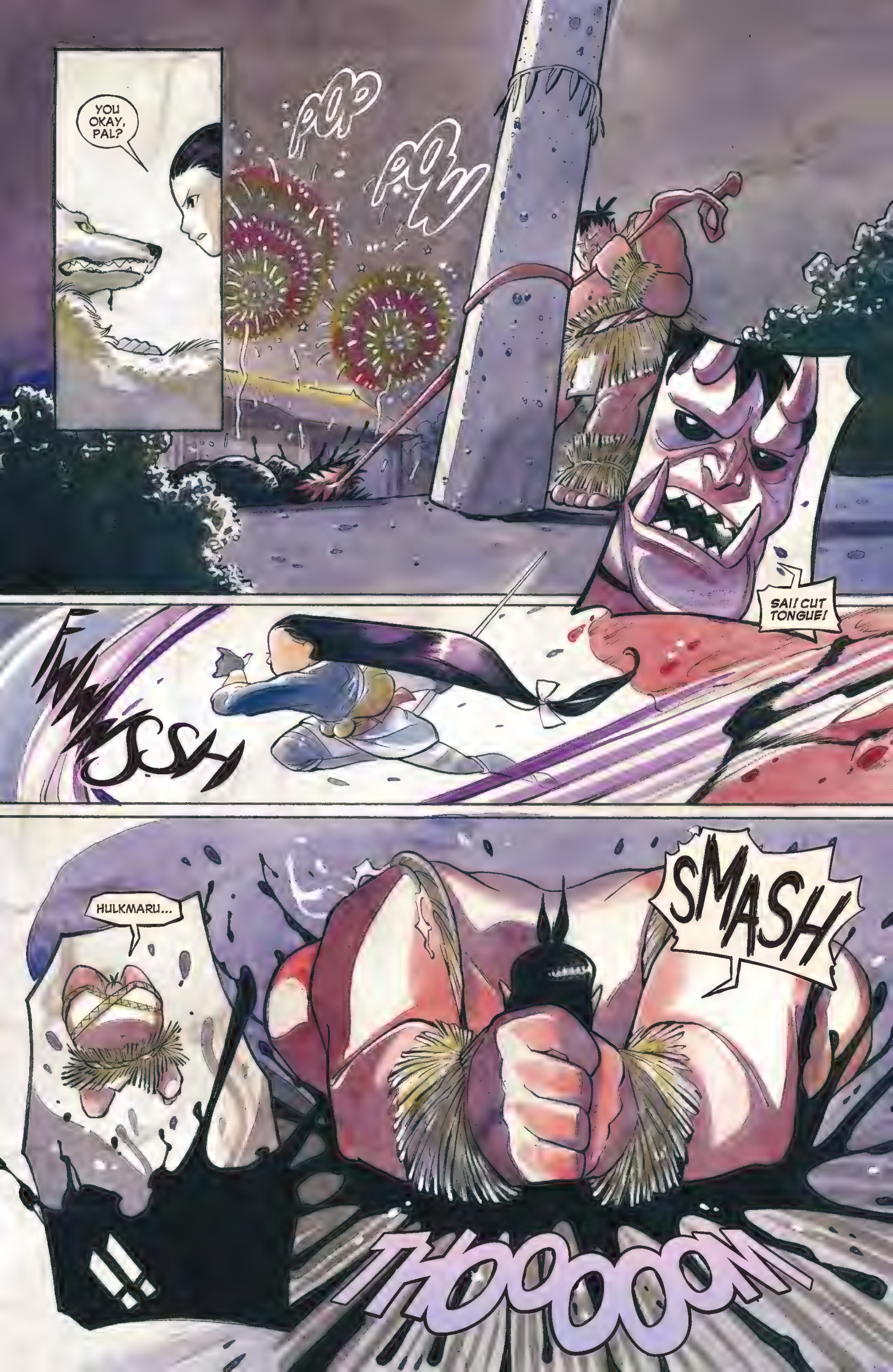

URK!
GRRWWARR!!
OH NO...
SMASH.

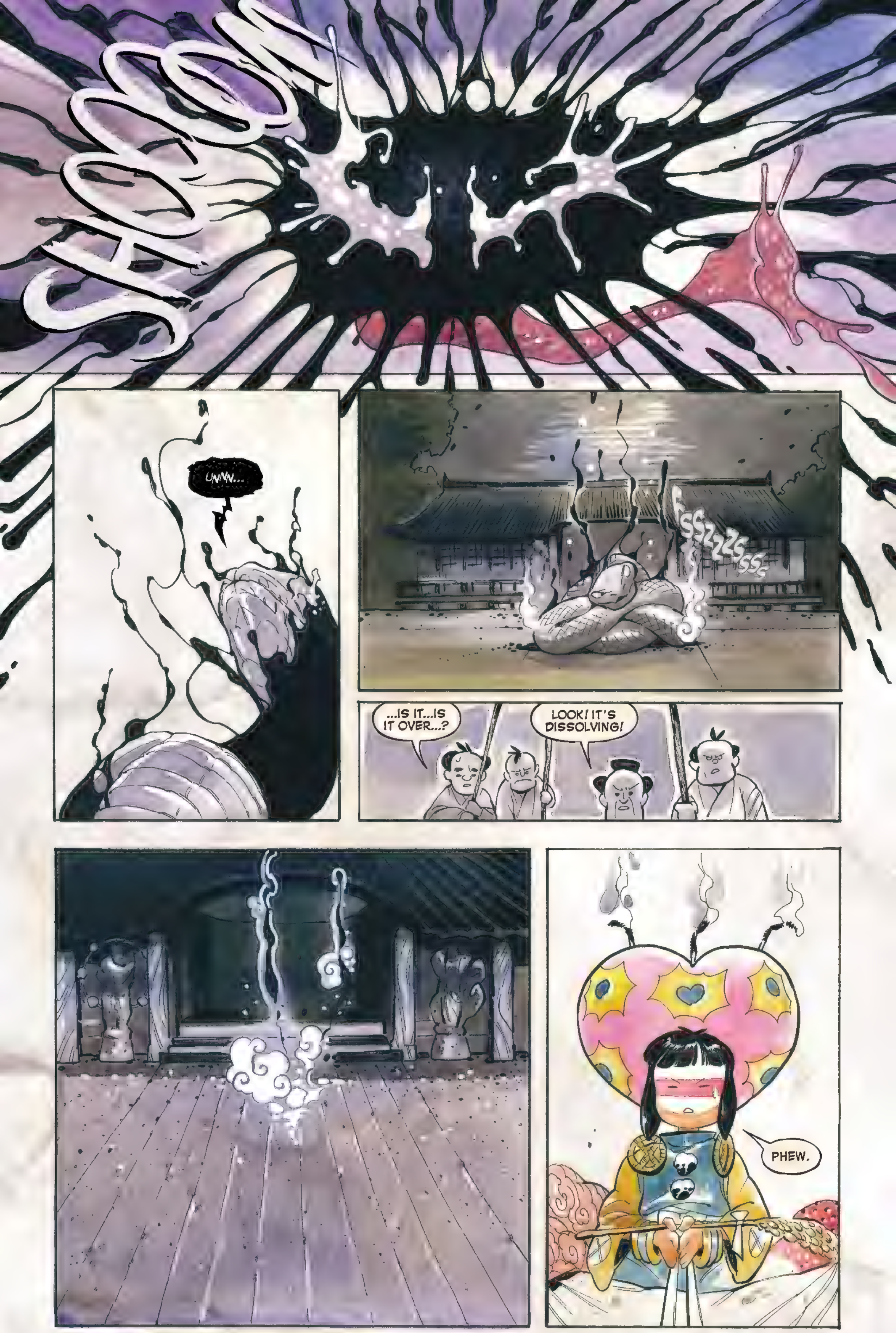

HYAH!
I--
--ABJURE THEE.
WE NEED TO PULL VENOM OUT OF THERE!
TSUKI! YOU AND LOGAN GET READY!
WHEN WE'RE CLEAR, TAKE YOUR SHOT!
ON IT!

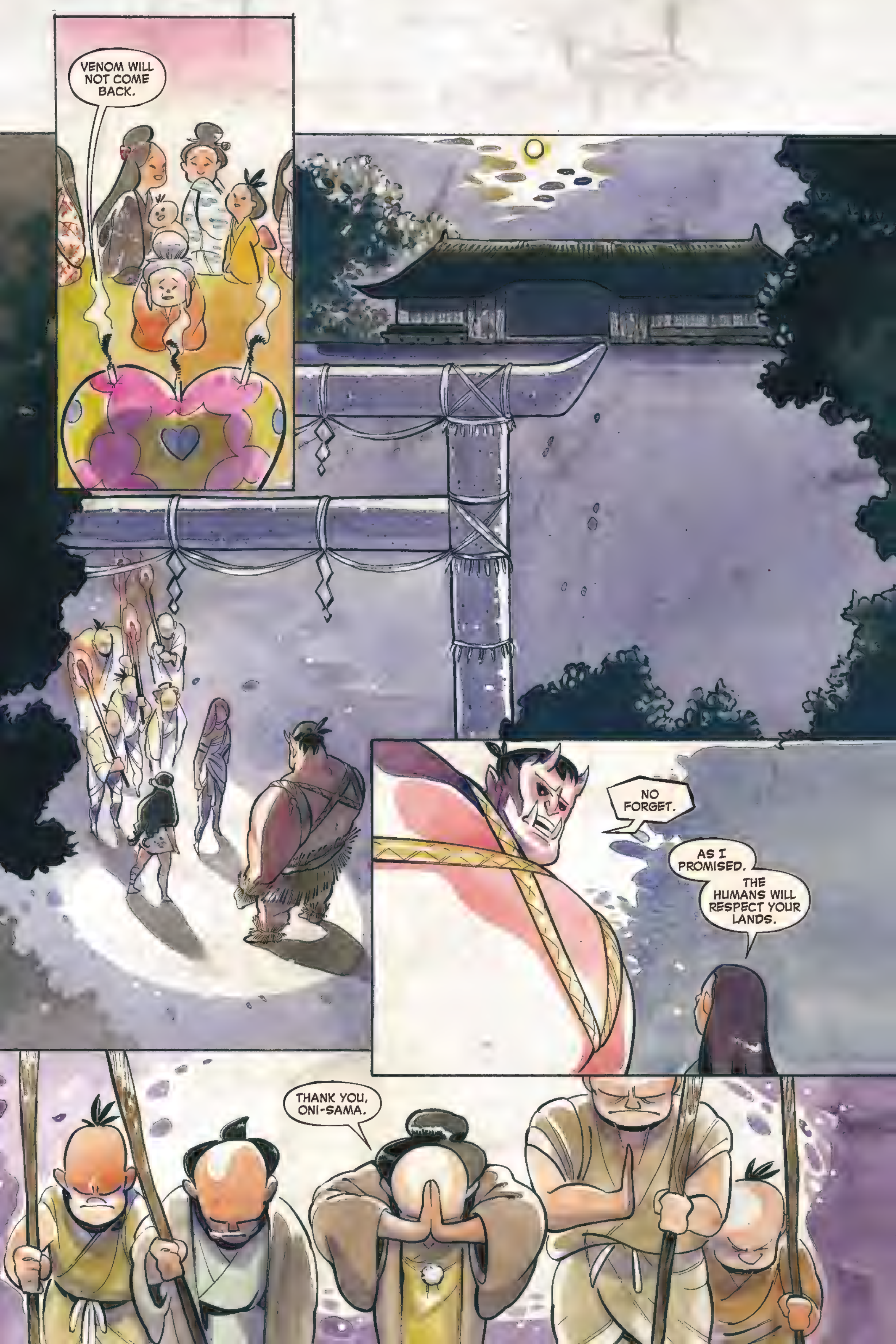

SSSS... PATHETIC. AN ONI AS A PET TO HUMANS.
YOU *DISGUST* US. YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO YOKAI.
!!
GROSS! WHAT *ARE* YOU?
ひょいっ
ぶち

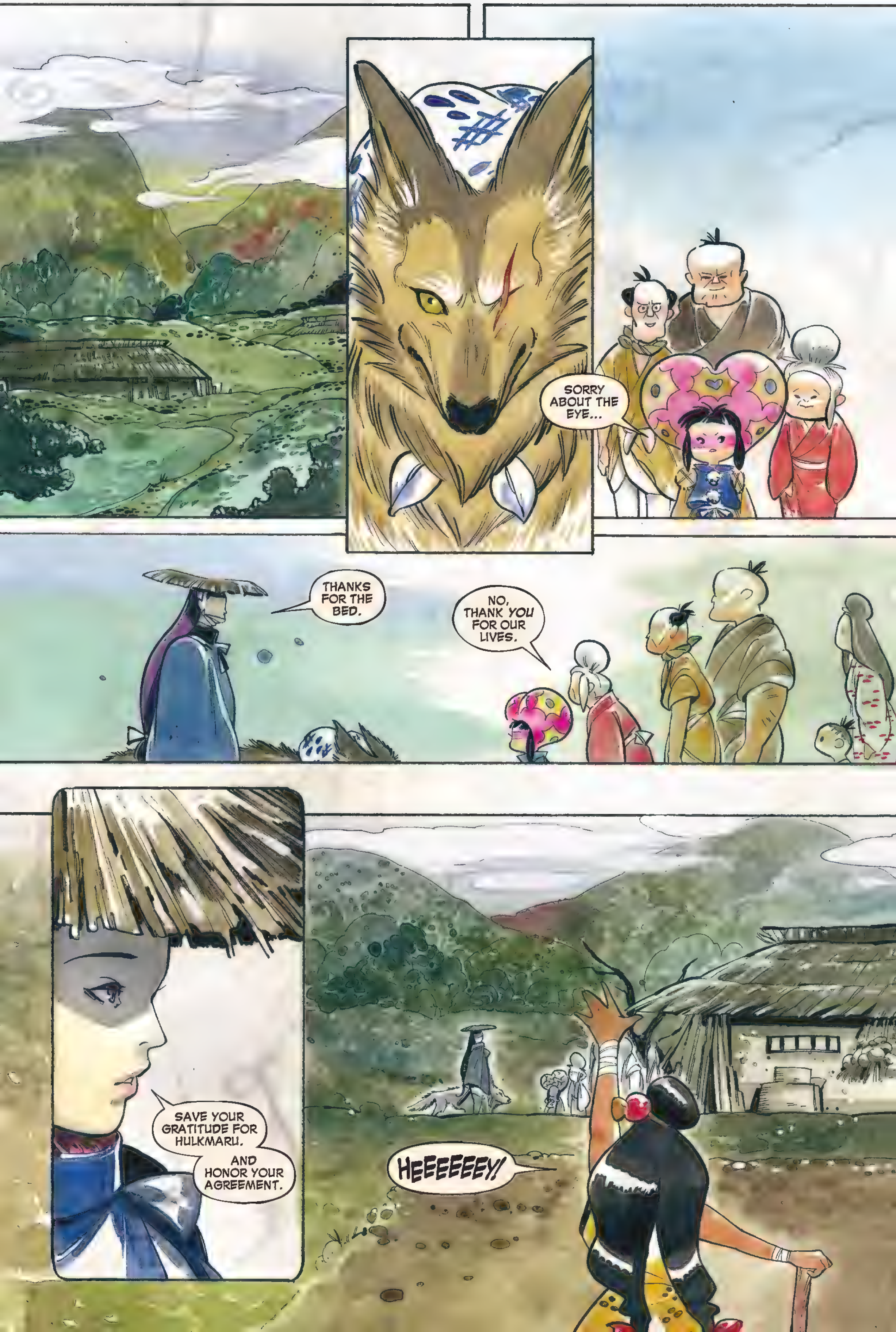

WHOAAA!
EAARGHHHH!
TSUKI! LOGAN! NOW!
すと
ぱち
ぱち
THNK
THNK

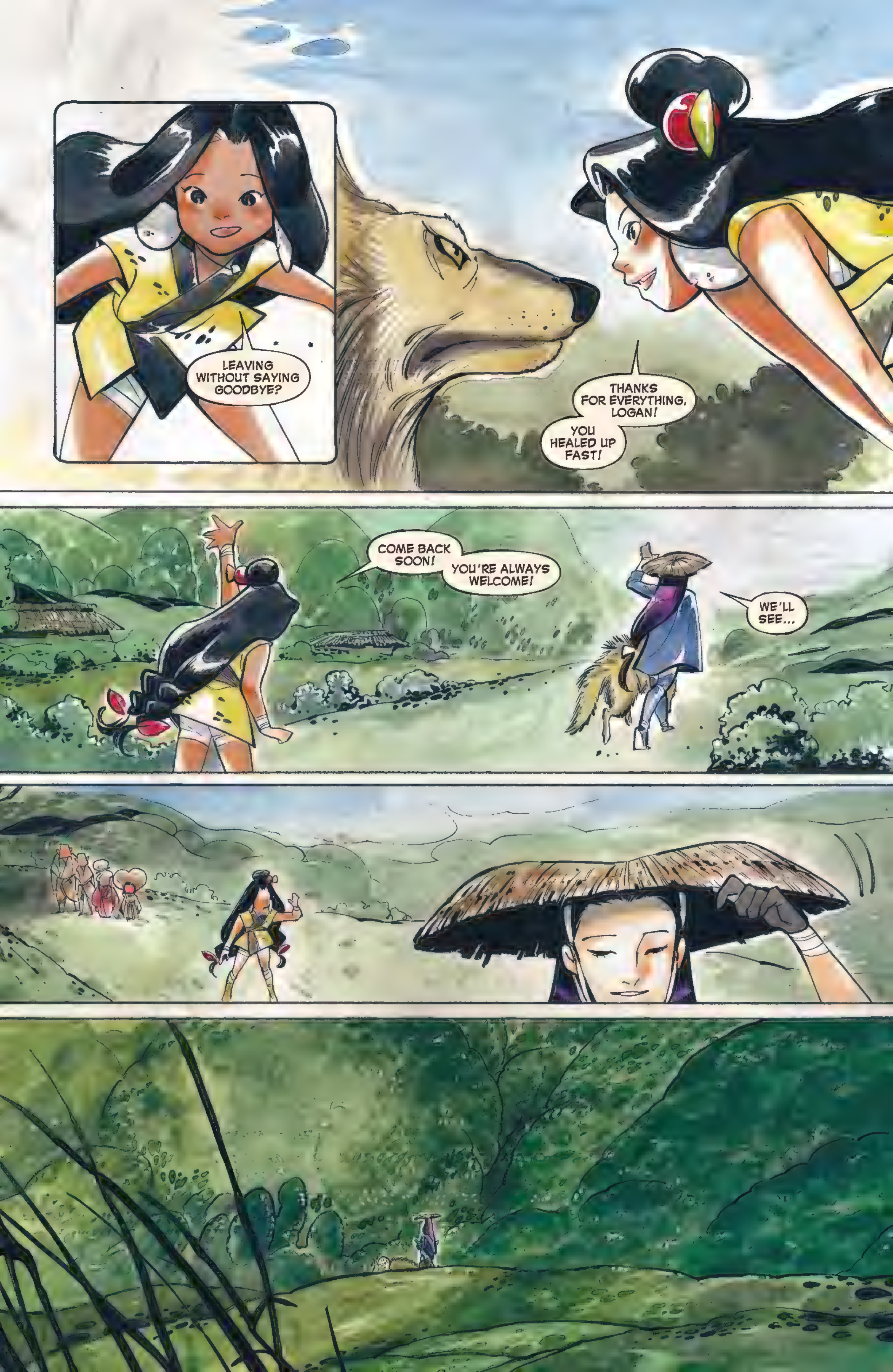

POP
SHKRAKK
MOVE!
UFF!
SLISH
SSSS
HANDS OFF MY FRIEND!

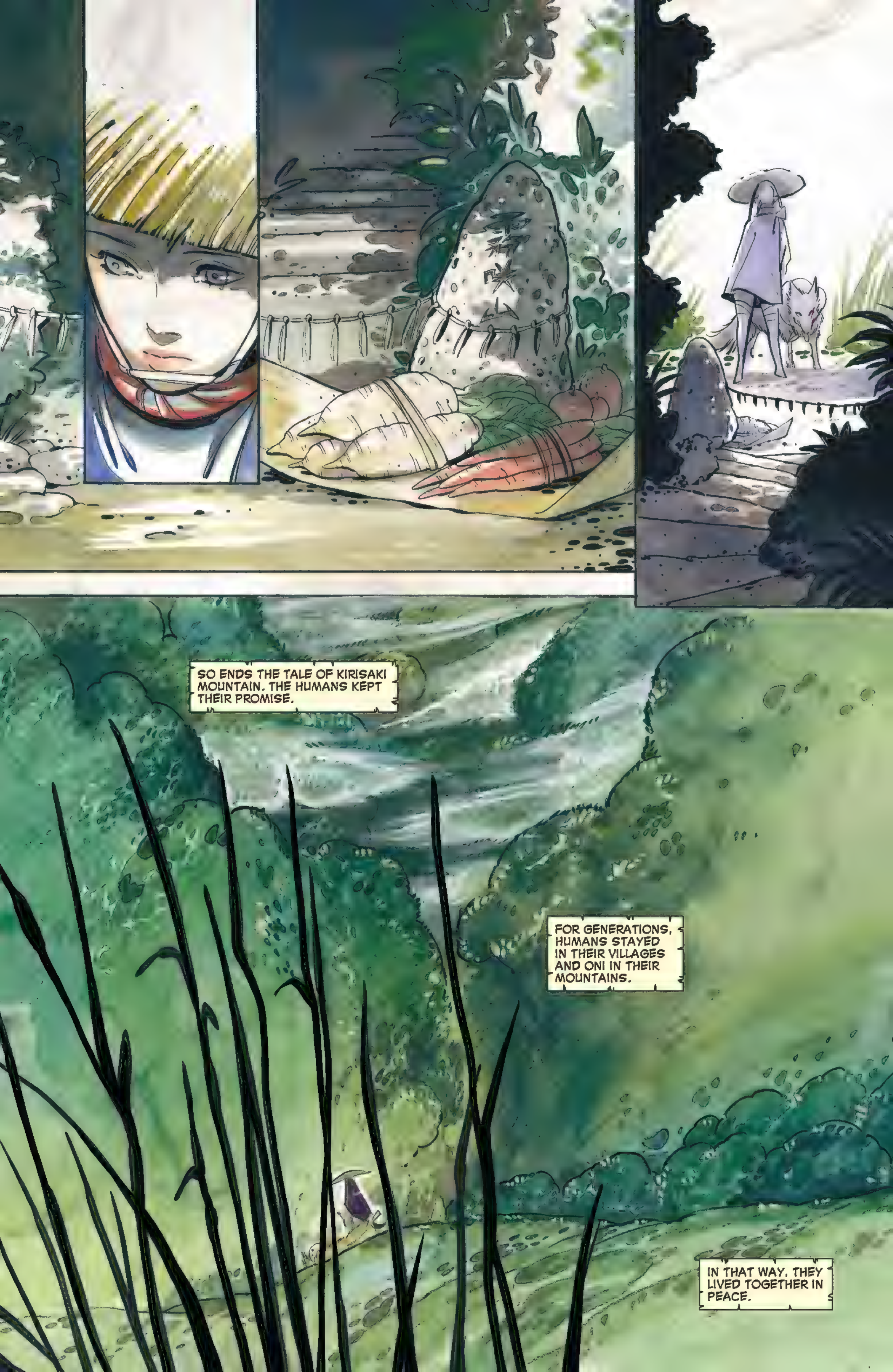

YOU OKAY, PAL?
POP
POW
SAI! CUT TONGUE!
FWWWSSH
HULKMARU...
SMASH
!!
THOOOOOM

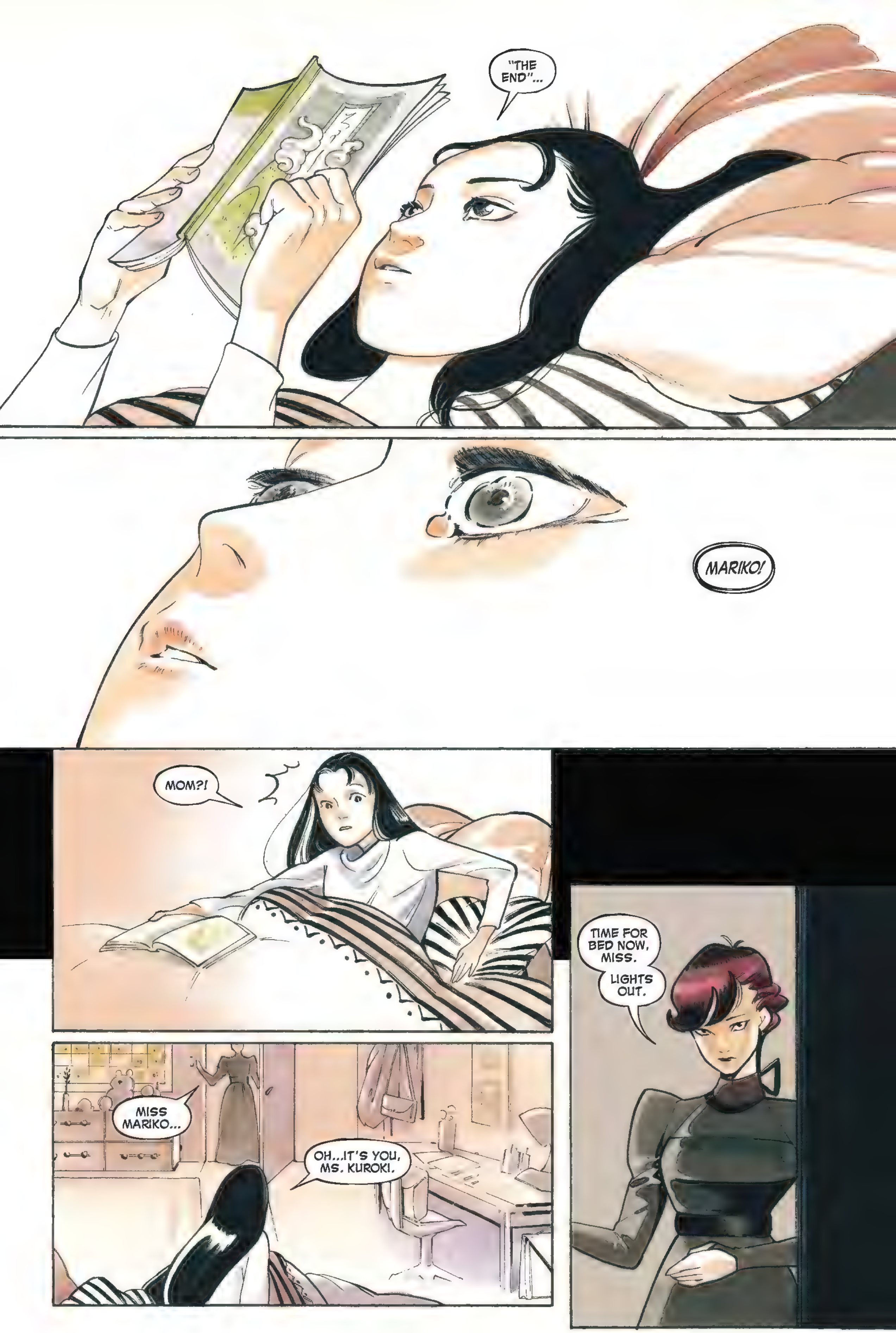

SHOOOM
UNNN...
FSSZZSSSS
...IS IT...IS IT OVER...?
LOOK! IT'S DISSOLVING!
PHEW.

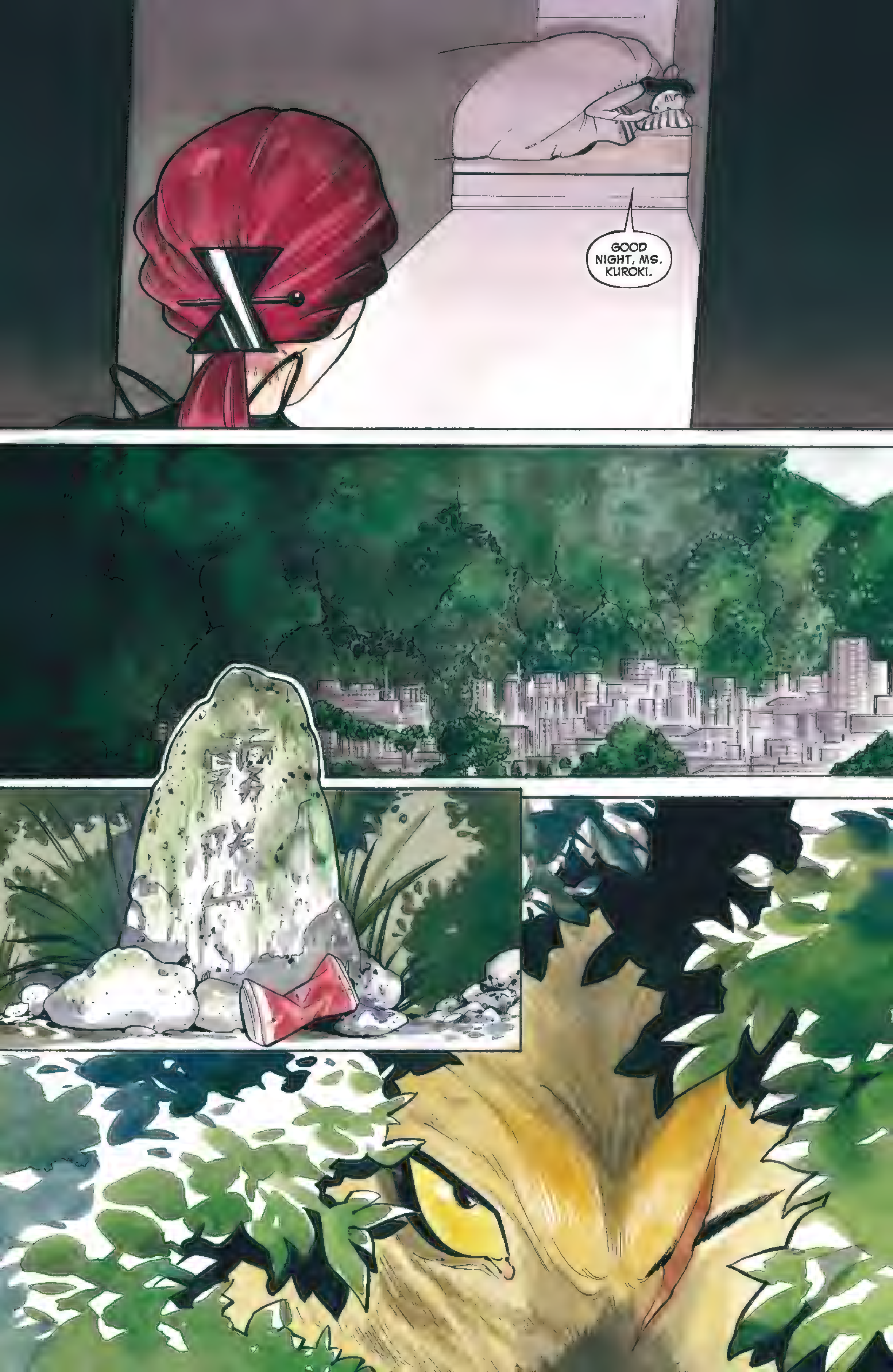

VENOM WILL NOT COME BACK.
NO FORGET.
AS I PROMISED.
THE HUMANS WILL RESPECT YOUR LANDS.
THANK YOU, ONI-SAMA.


SORRY ABOUT THE EYE...
THANKS FOR THE BED.
NO, THANK *YOU* FOR OUR LIVES.
SAVE YOUR GRATITUDE FOR HULKMARU.
AND HONOR YOUR AGREEMENT.
HEEEEEEY!

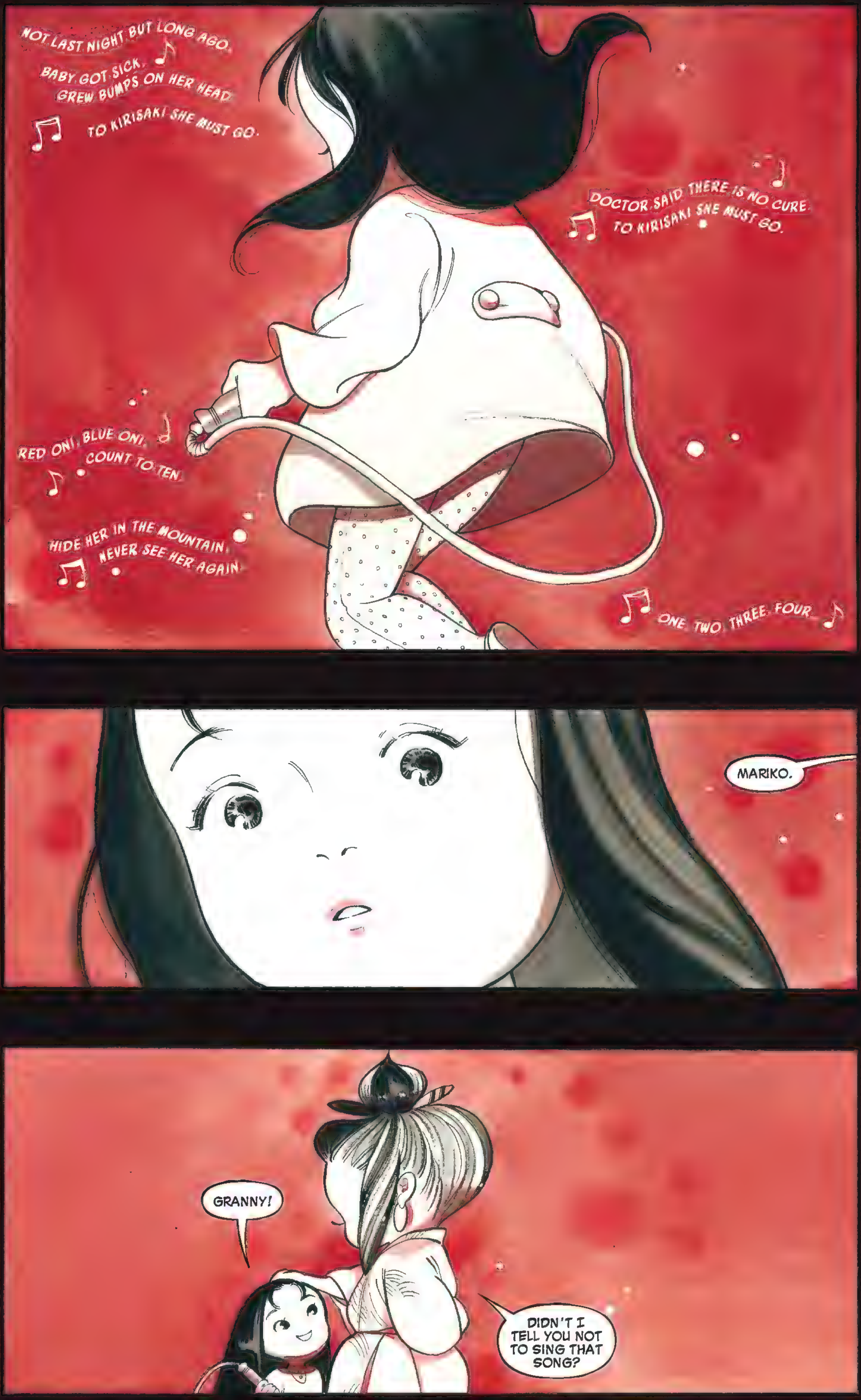

LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE?
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, LOGAN!
YOU HEALED UP FAST!
COME BACK SOON!
YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!
WE'LL SEE...

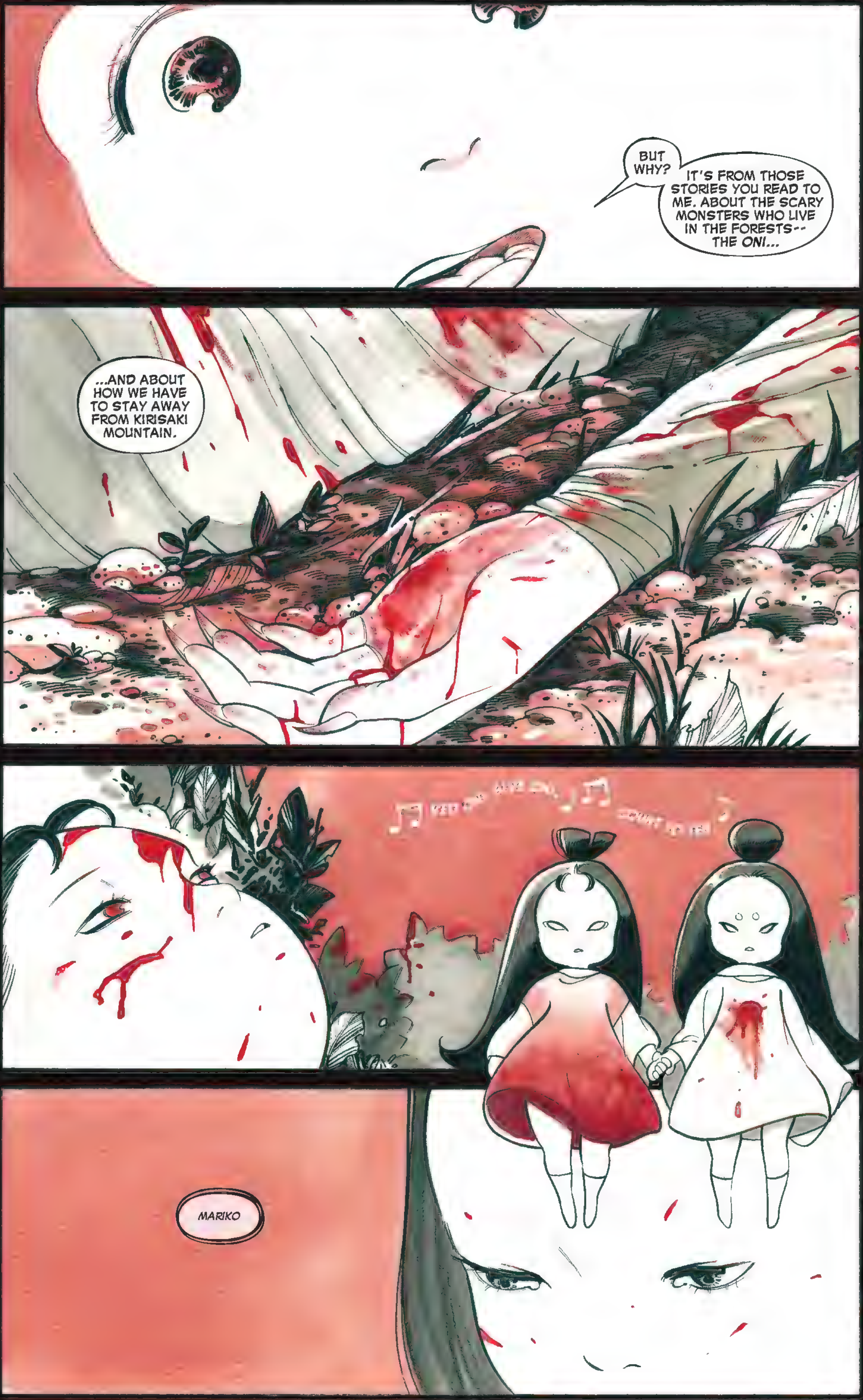

SO ENDS THE TALE OF KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN. THE HUMANS KEPT THEIR PROMISE.
FOR GENERATIONS, HUMANS STAYED IN THEIR VILLAGES AND ONI IN THEIR MOUNTAINS.
IN THAT WAY, THEY LIVED TOGETHER IN PEACE.

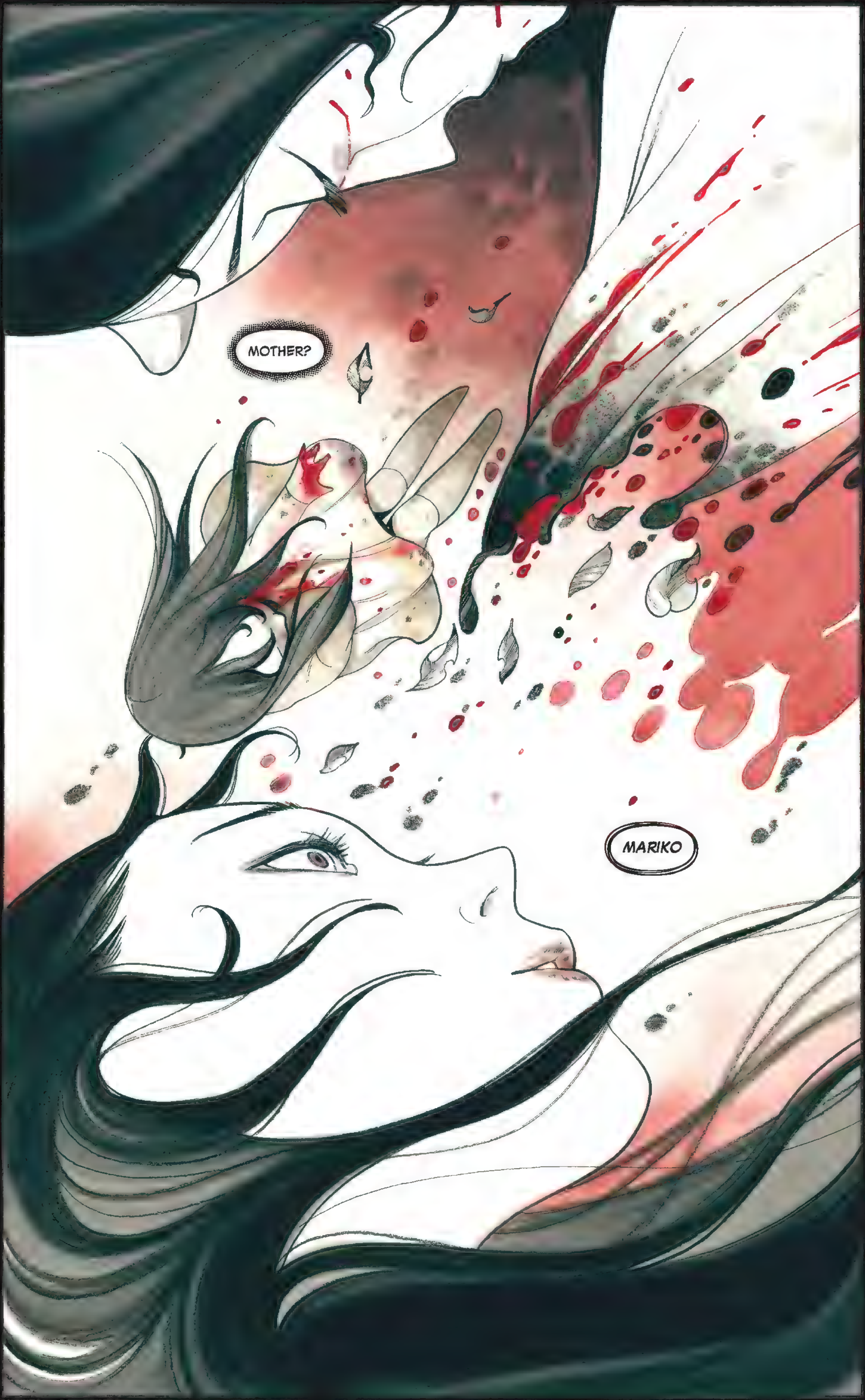

"THE END"...
MARIKO!
MOM?!
MISS MARIKO...
OH...IT'S YOU, MS. KUROKI.
TIME FOR BED NOW, MISS.
LIGHTS OUT.

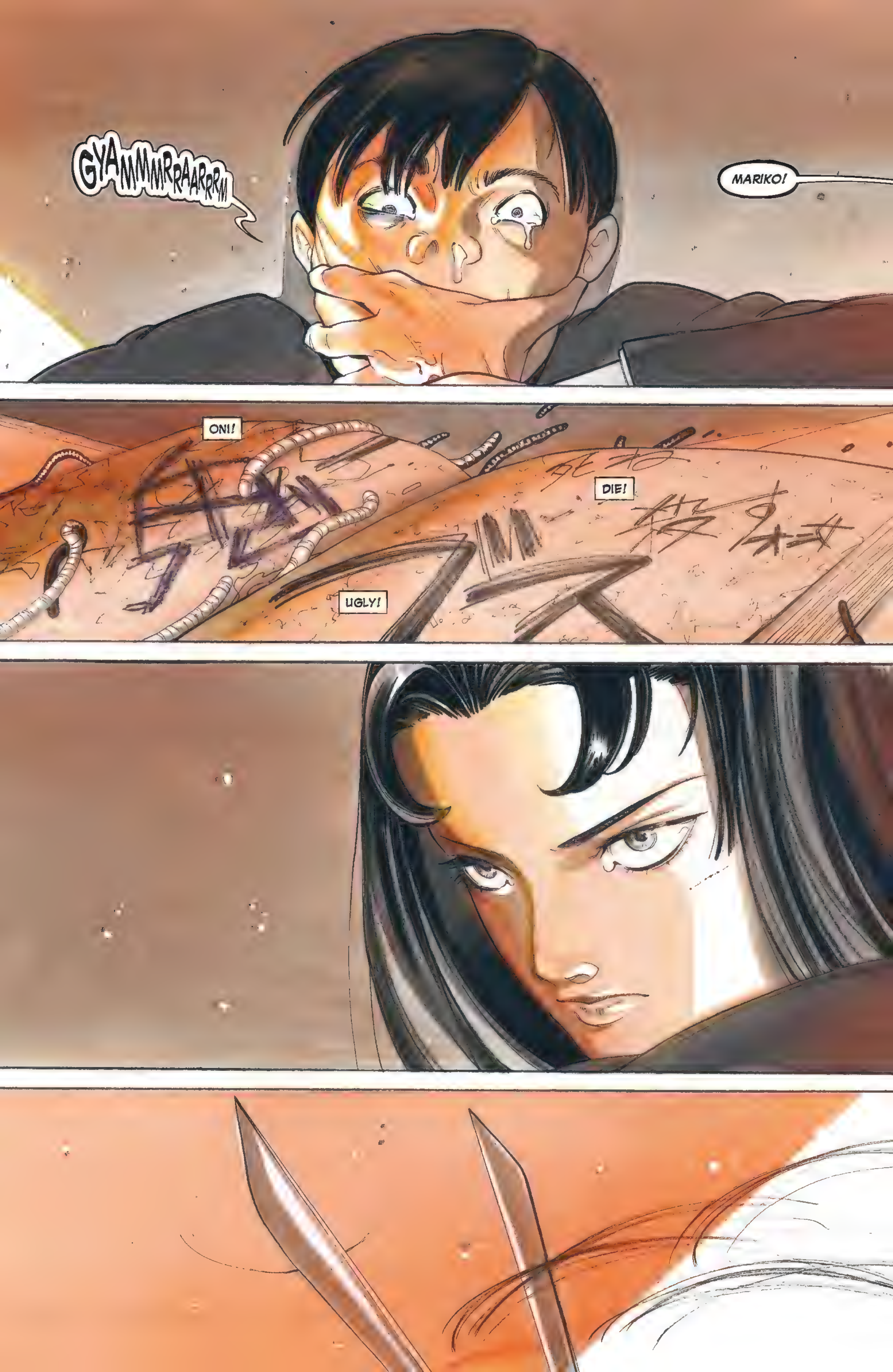

GOOD NIGHT, MS. KUROKI.

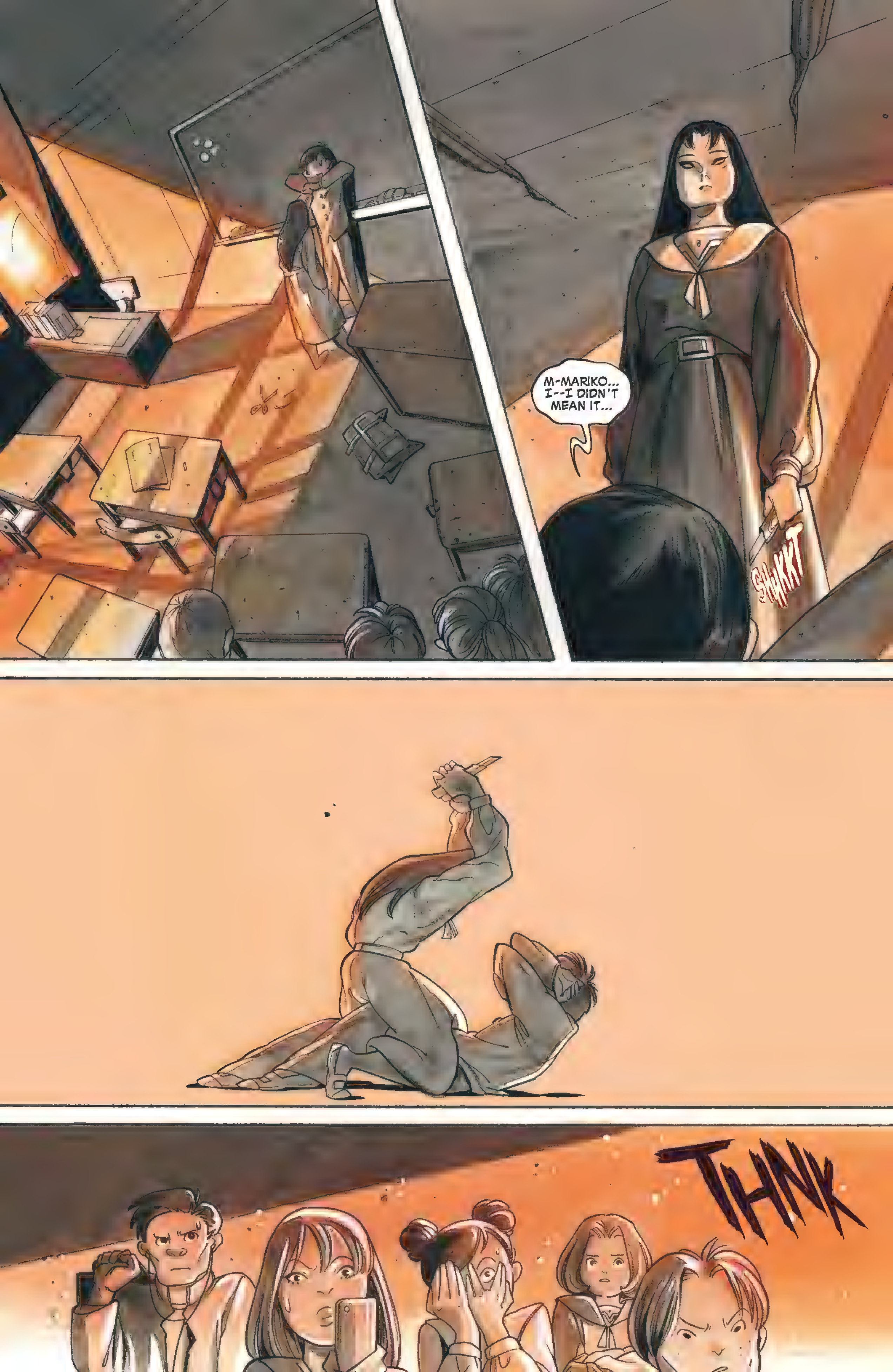
霧咲山
DEMON DAYS
MARIKO

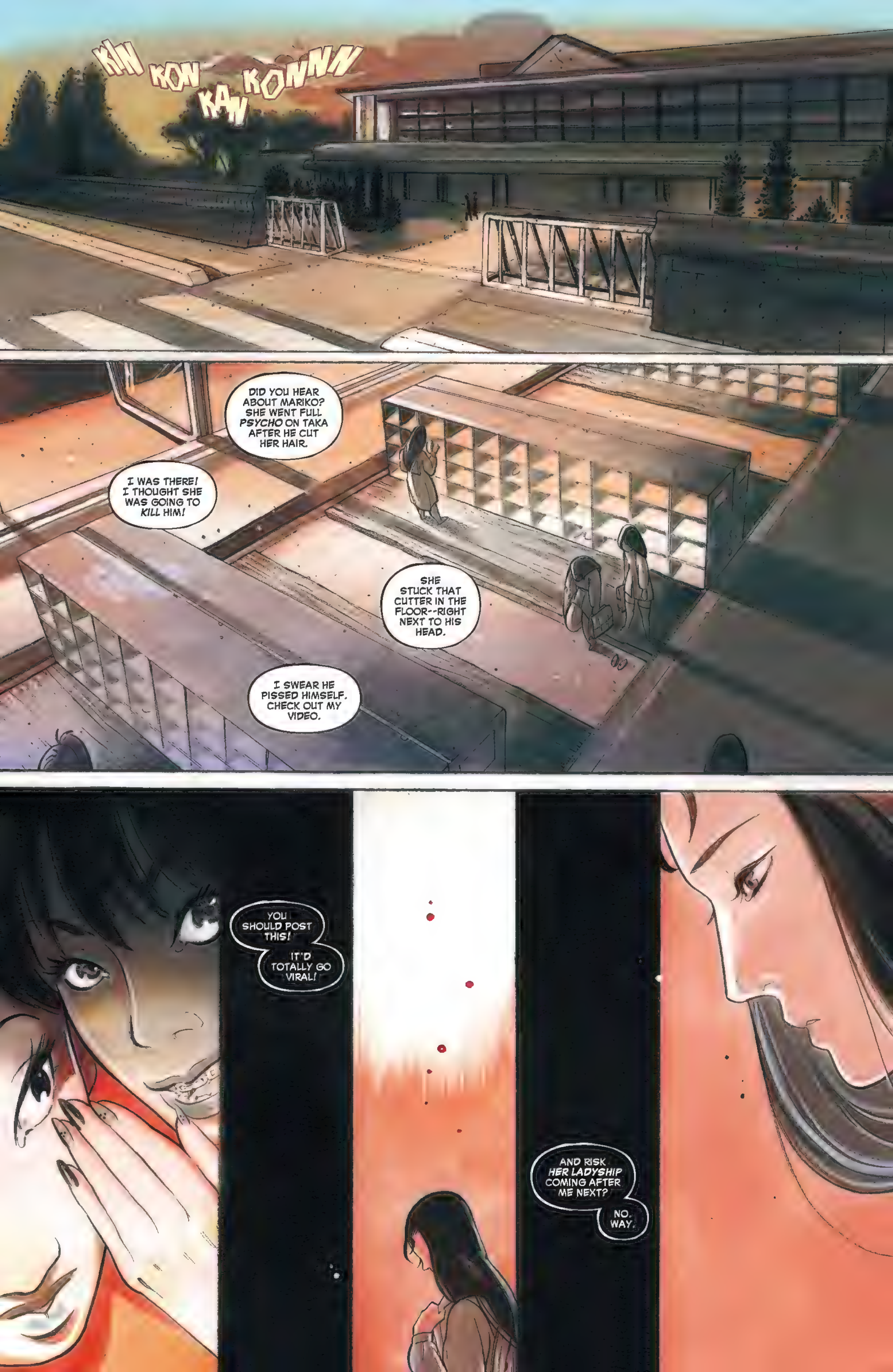

NOT LAST NIGHT BUT LONG AGO,
BABY GOT SICK,
GREW BUMPS ON HER HEAD
TO KIRISAKI SHE MUST GO.
DOCTOR SAID THERE IS NO CURE
TO KIRISAKI SHE MUST GO.
RED ONI, BLUE ONI,
COUNT TO TEN
HIDE HER IN THE MOUNTAIN,
NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.
ONE TWO THREE FOUR
MARIKO.
GRANNY!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO SING THAT SONG?

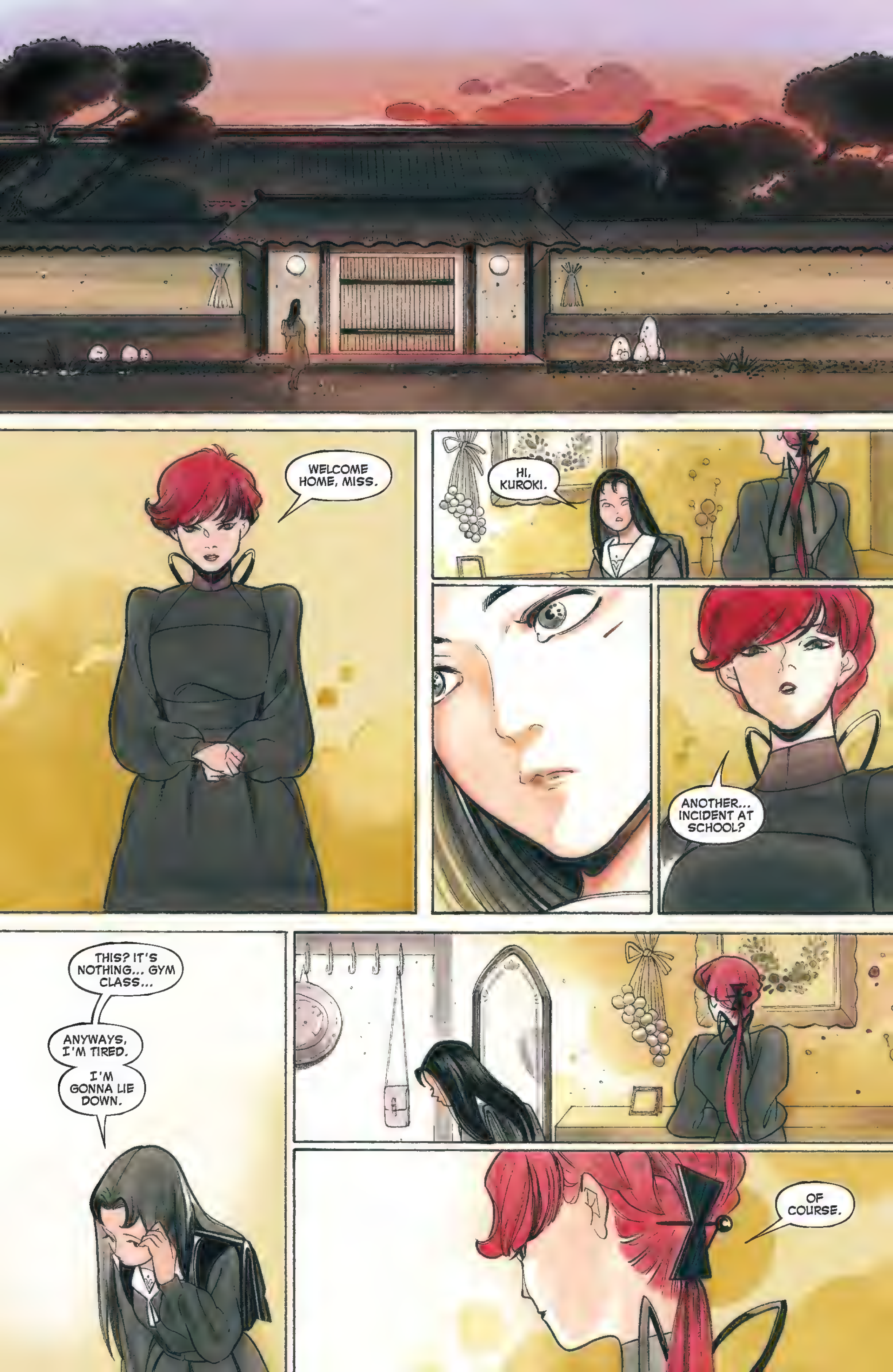

BUT WHY?
IT'S FROM THOSE STORIES YOU READ TO ME. ABOUT THE SCARY MONSTERS WHO LIVE IN THE FORESTS-- THE *ONI*...
...AND ABOUT HOW WE HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN.
MARIKO

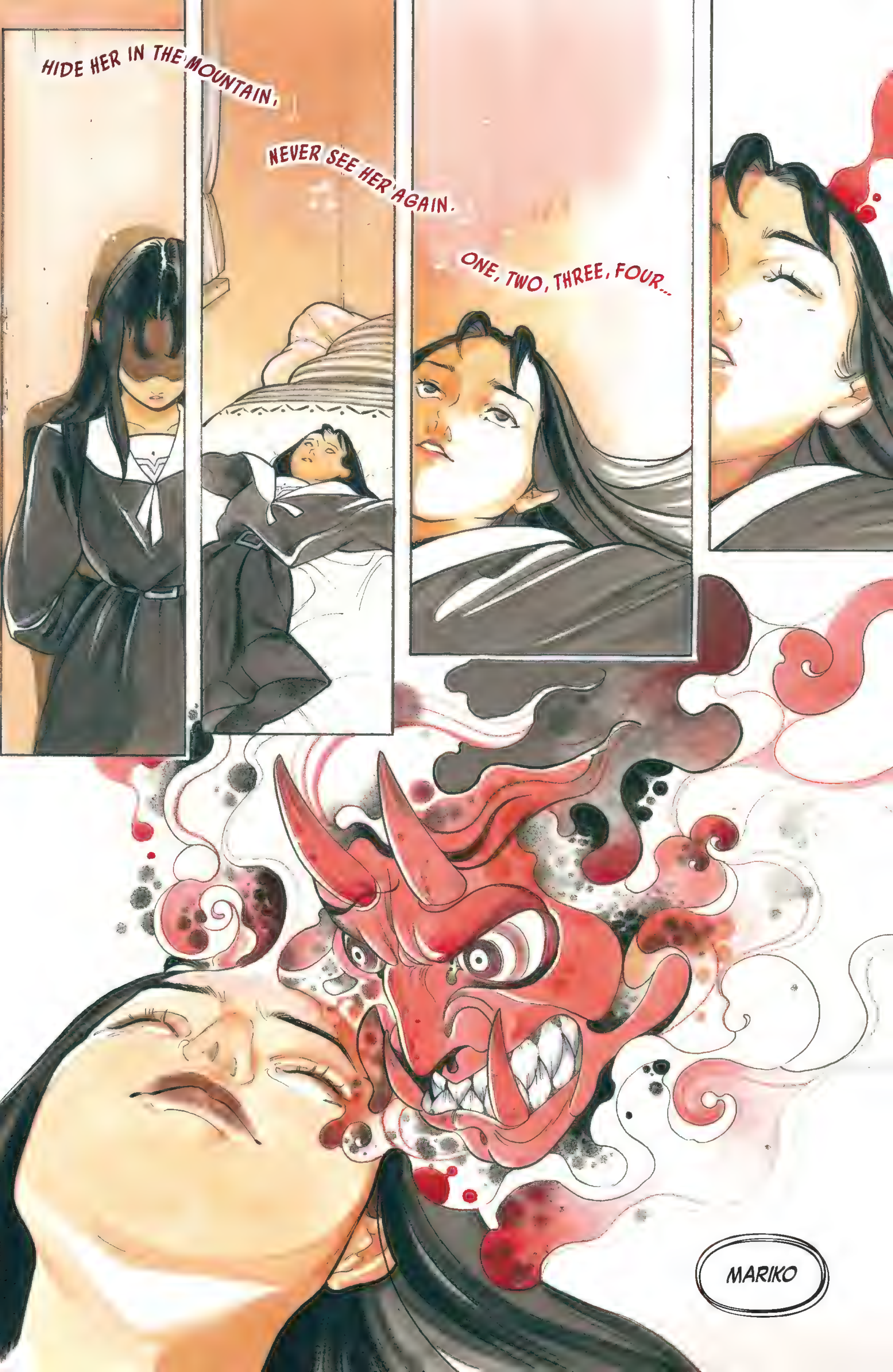

MOTHER?
MARIKO

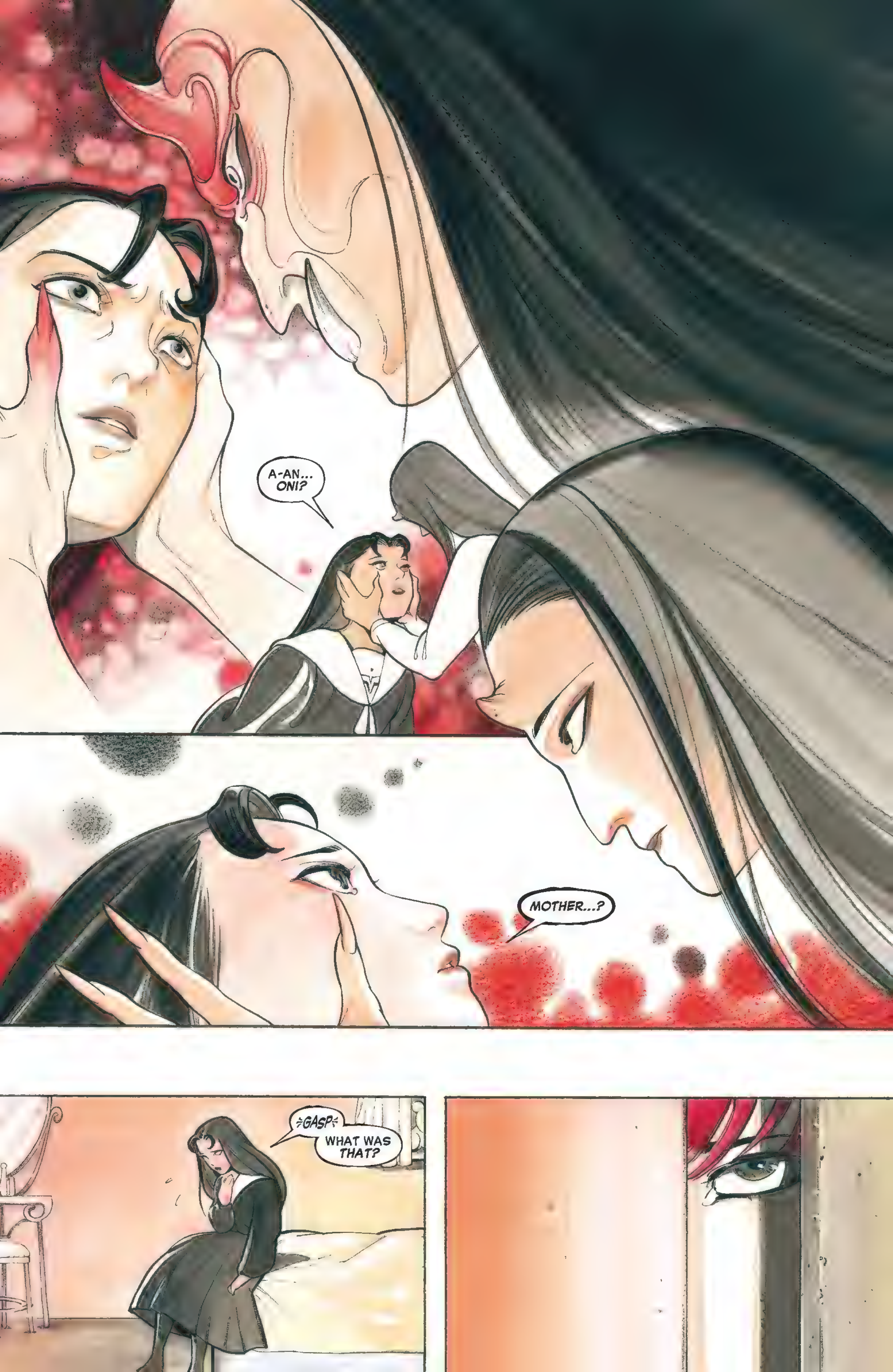

GYAMMMRRAARRRM
MARIKO!
ONI!
死ね
DIE!
殺す
ブス
UGLY!

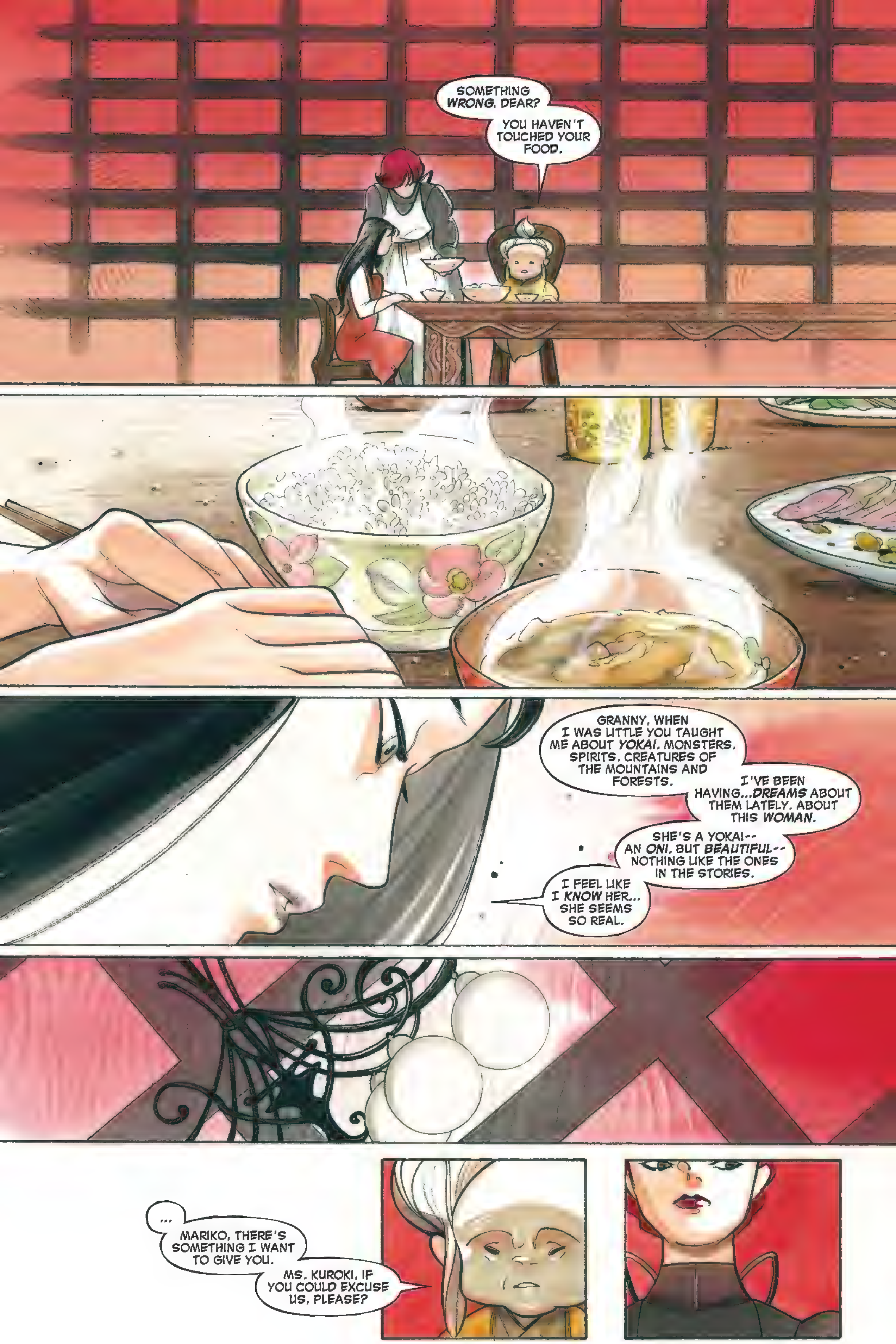

M-MARIKO... I--I DIDN'T MEAN IT...
SHKKT
THNK

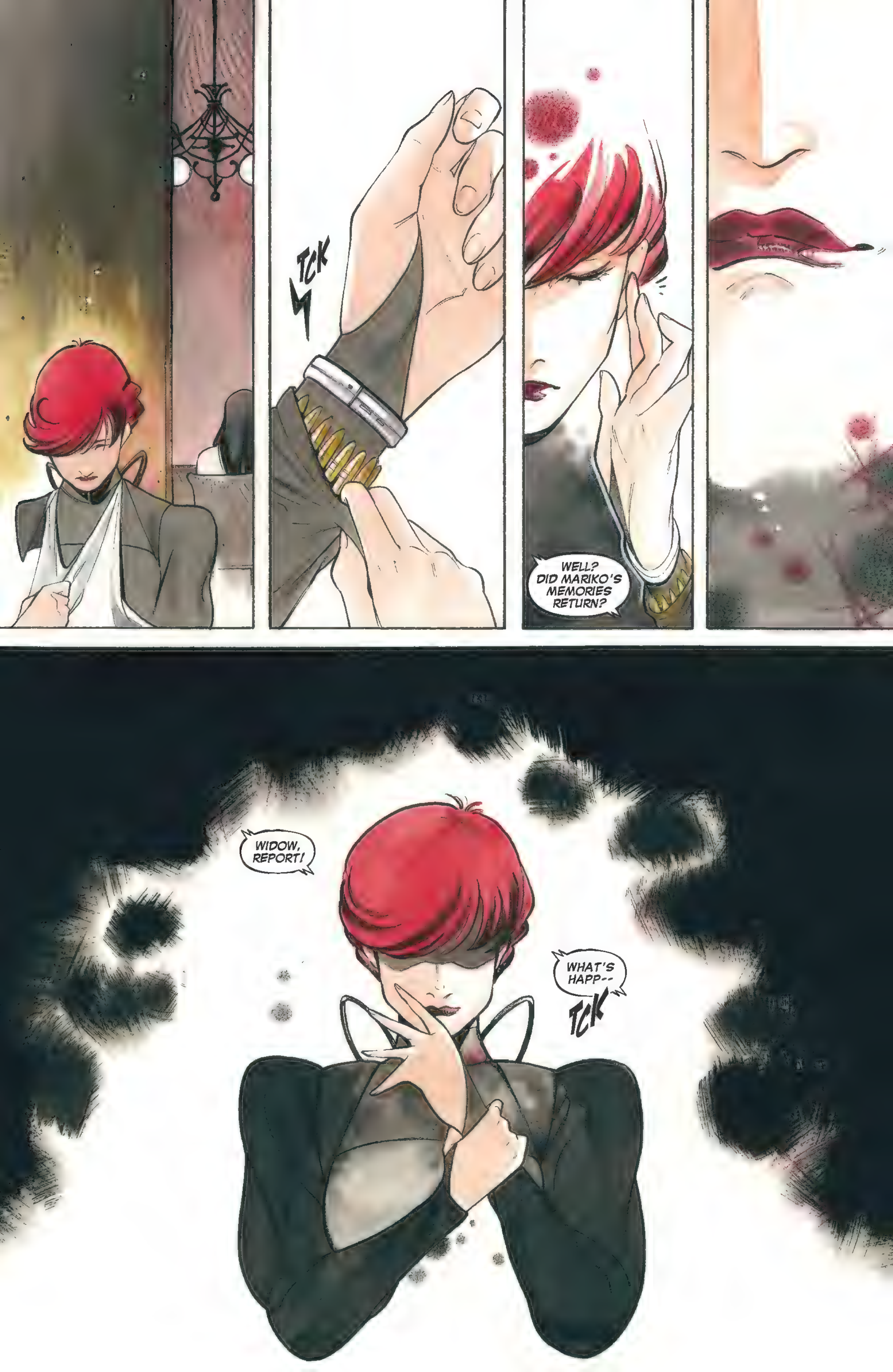

KIN KON KAN KONNN
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT MARIKO? SHE WENT FULL *PSYCHO* ON TAKA AFTER HE CUT HER HAIR.
I WAS THERE! I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO *KILL* HIM!
SHE STUCK THAT CUTTER IN THE FLOOR--RIGHT NEXT TO HIS HEAD.
I SWEAR HE PISSED HIMSELF. CHECK OUT MY VIDEO.
YOU SHOULD POST THIS!
IT'D TOTALLY GO VIRAL!
AND RISK *HER LADYSHIP* COMING AFTER ME NEXT?
NO. WAY.

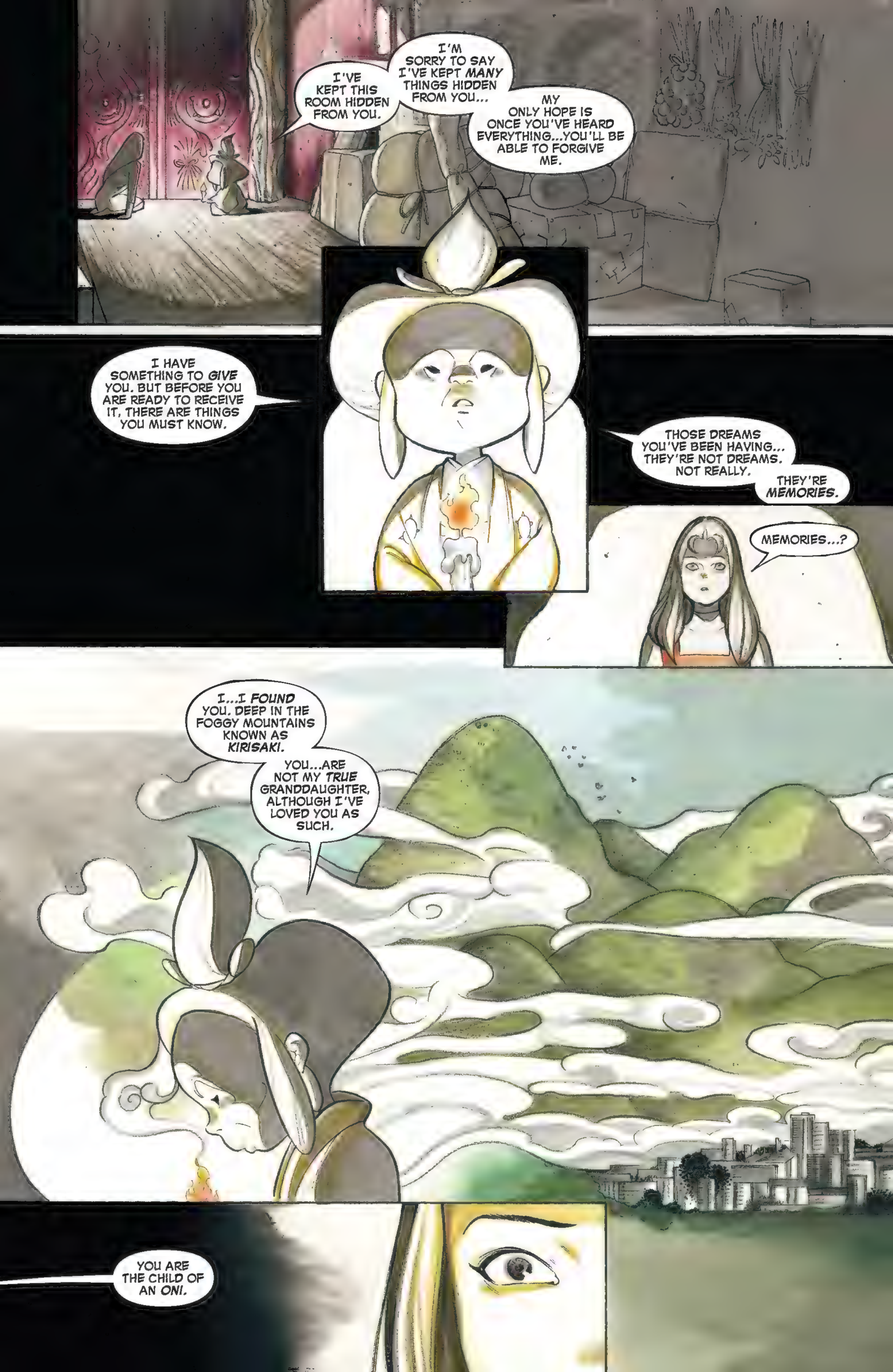

WELCOME HOME, MISS.
HI, KUROKI.
ANOTHER... INCIDENT AT SCHOOL?
THIS? IT'S NOTHING... GYM CLASS...
ANYWAYS, I'M TIRED.
I'M GONNA LIE DOWN.
OF COURSE.

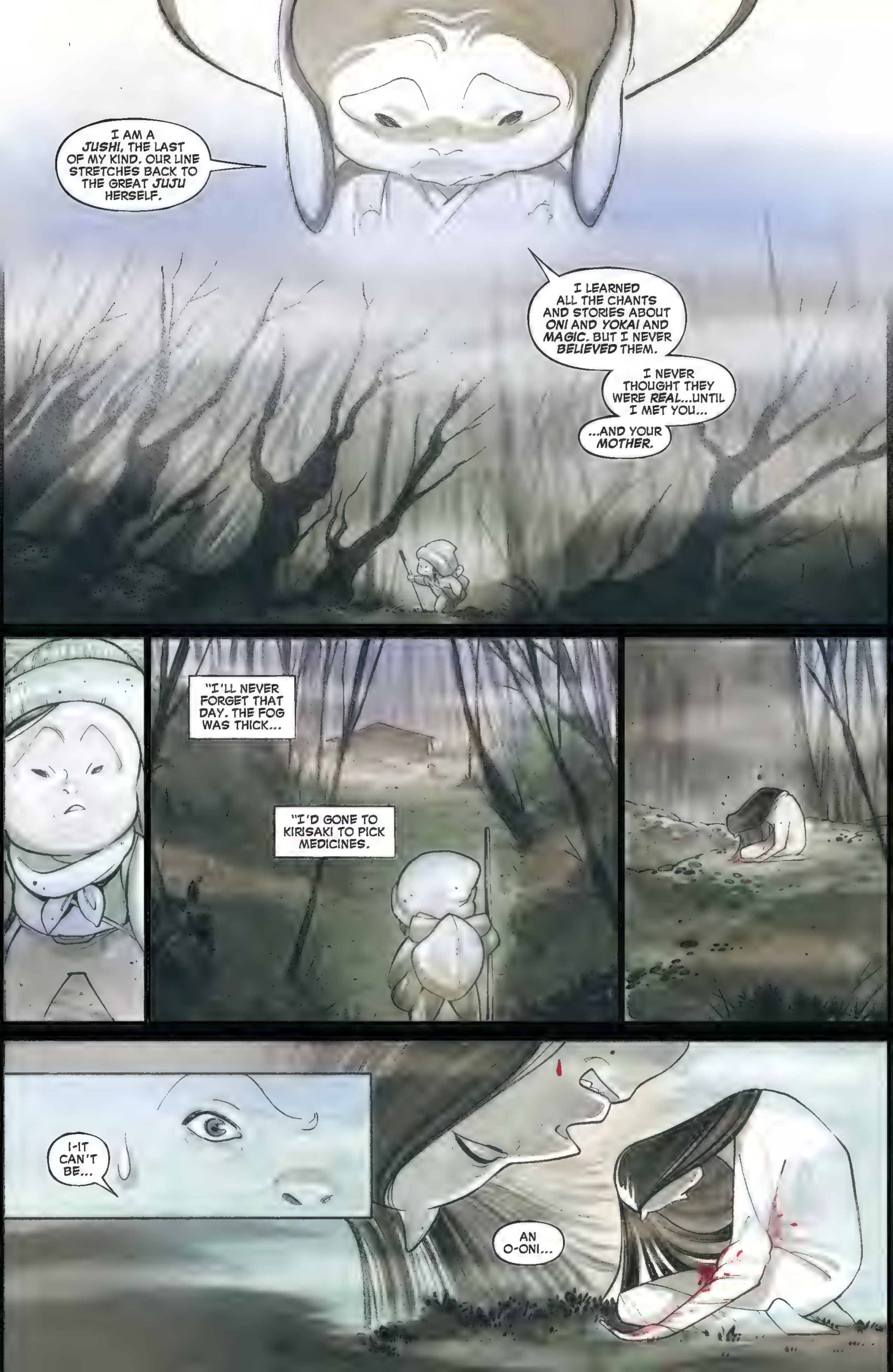

HIDE HER IN THE MOUNTAIN,
NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR...
MARIKO

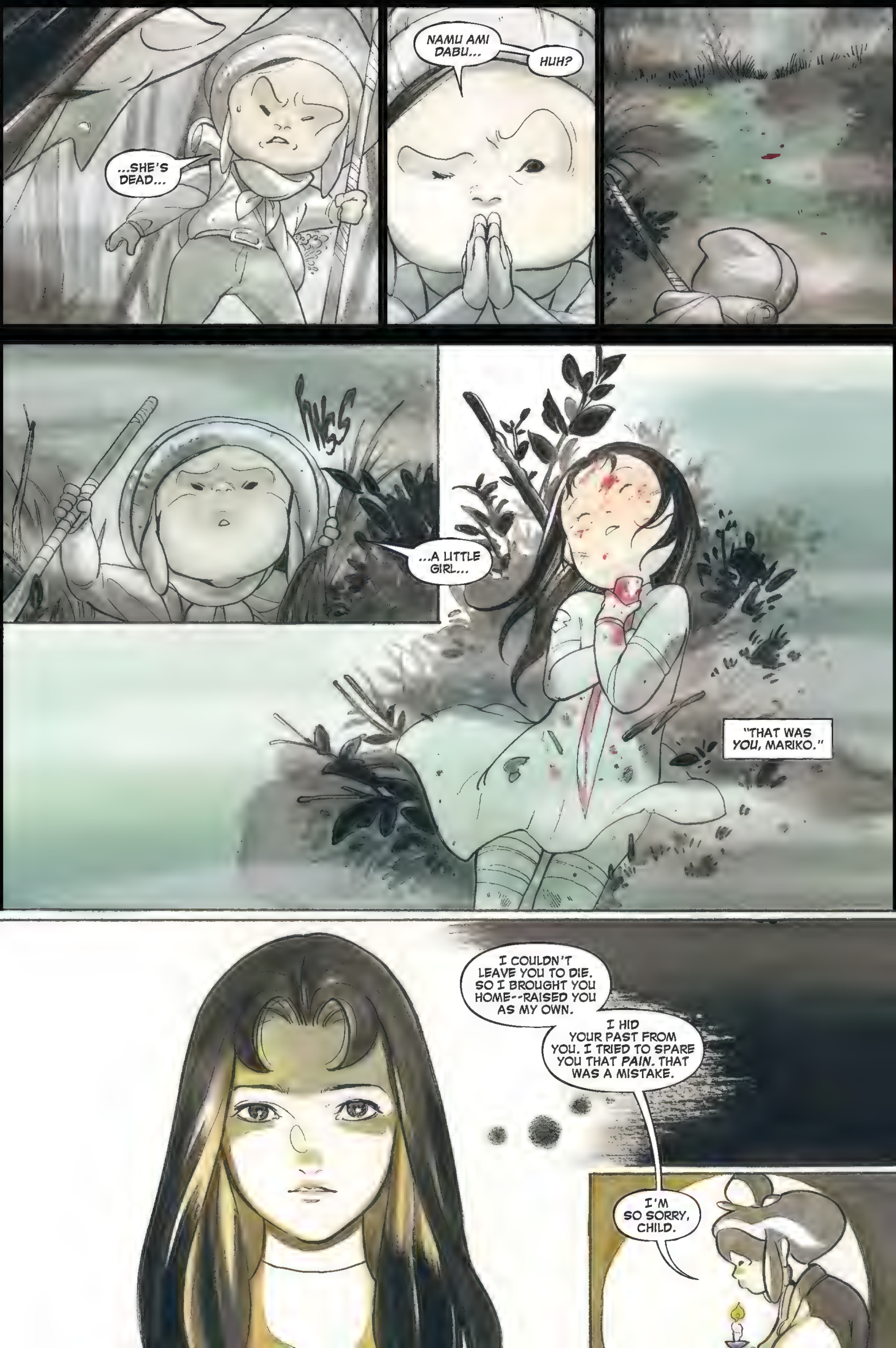

A-AN... ONI?
MOTHER...?
GASP
WHAT WAS THAT?

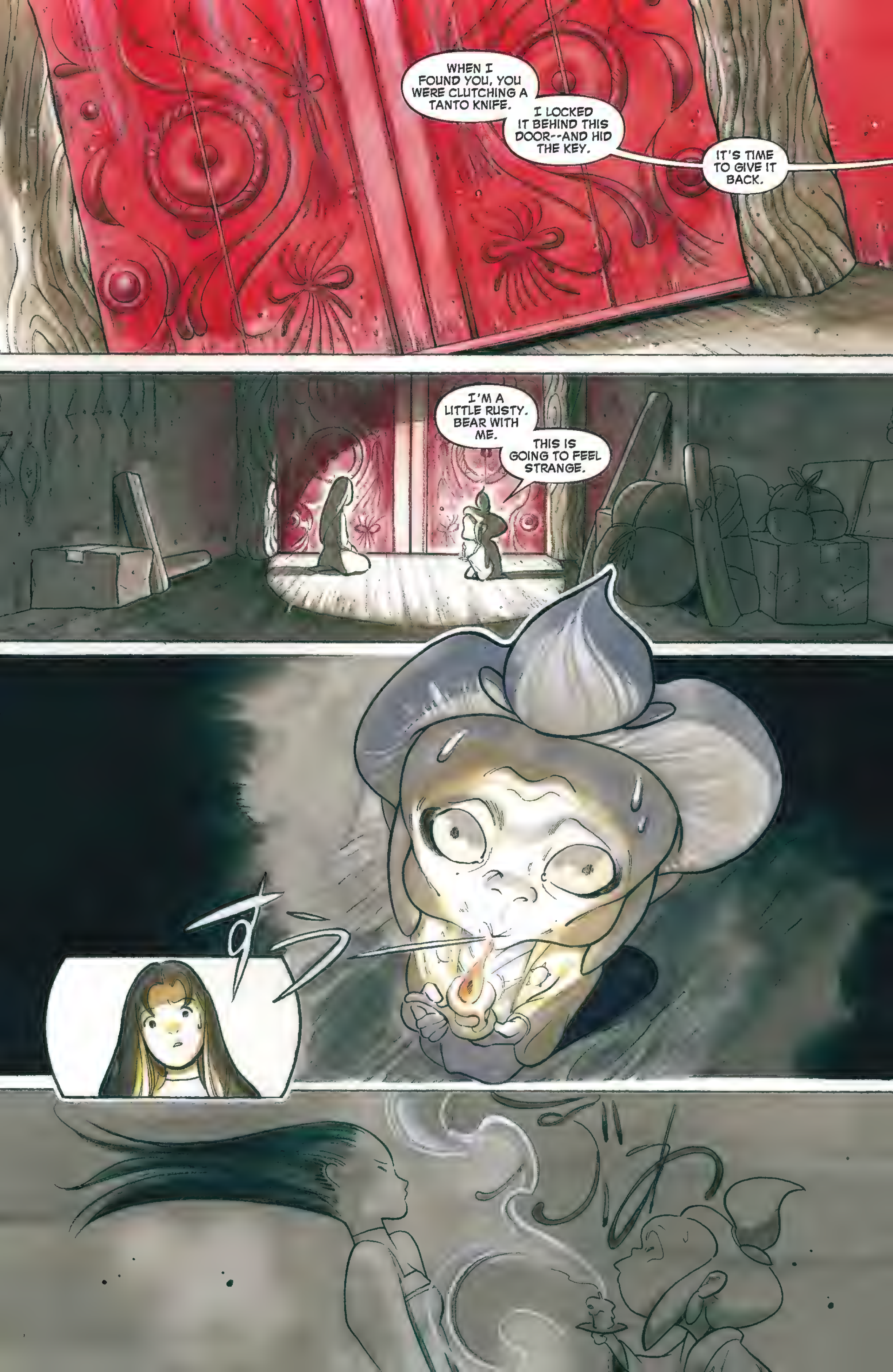

SOMETHING *WRONG*, DEAR?
YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR FOOD.
GRANNY, WHEN I WAS LITTLE YOU TAUGHT ME ABOUT *YOKAI*. MONSTERS. SPIRITS. CREATURES OF THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS.
I'VE BEEN HAVING...*DREAMS* ABOUT THEM LATELY. ABOUT THIS *WOMAN*.
SHE'S A YOKAI-- AN *ONI*. BUT *BEAUTIFUL*-- NOTHING LIKE THE ONES IN THE STORIES.
I FEEL LIKE I *KNOW* HER... SHE SEEMS SO REAL.
...
MARIKO, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU.
MS. KUROKI, IF YOU COULD EXCUSE US, PLEASE?

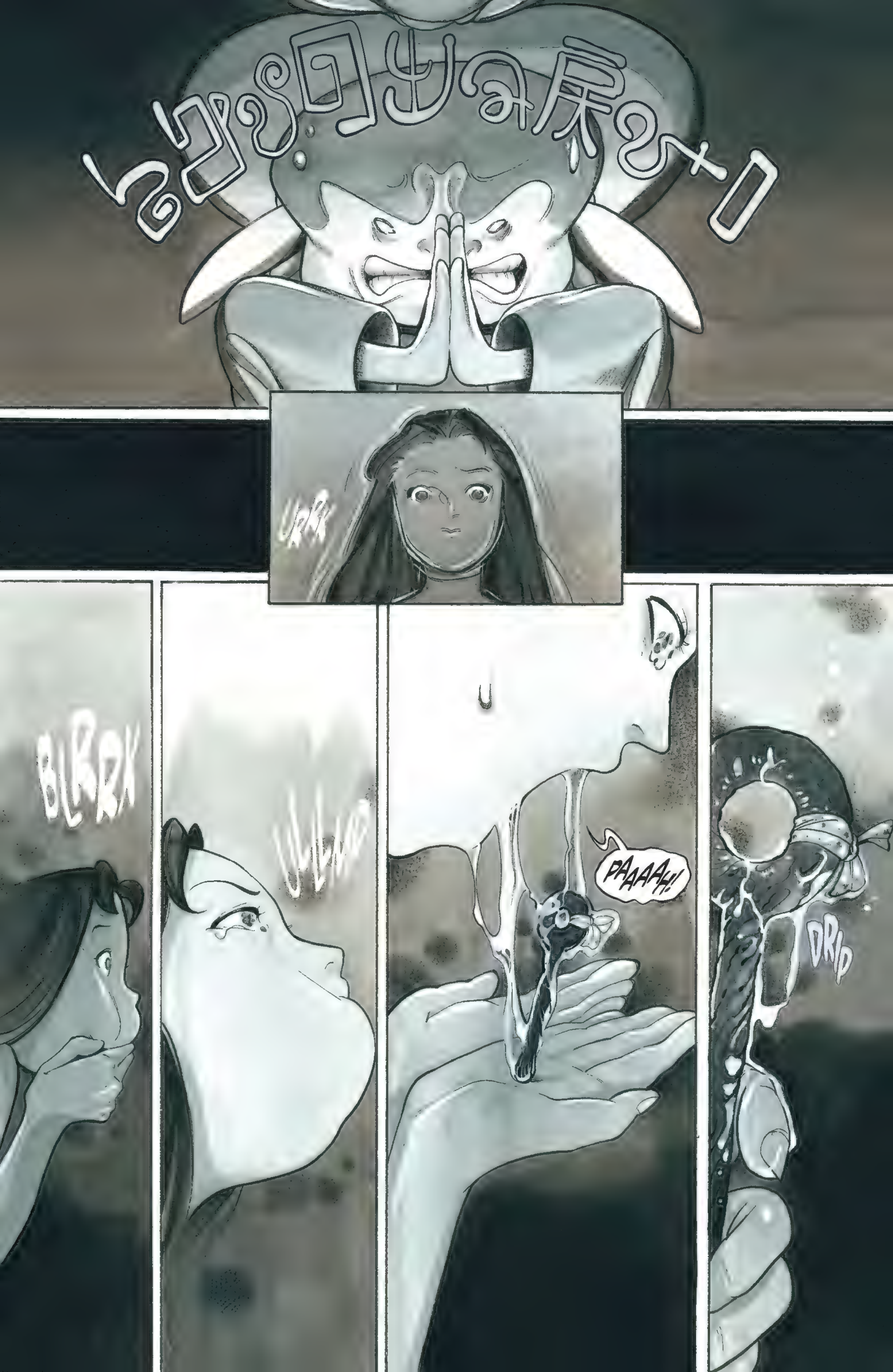

TCK
WELL? DID MARIKO'S MEMORIES RETURN?
WIDOW, REPORT!
WHAT'S HAPP--
TCK

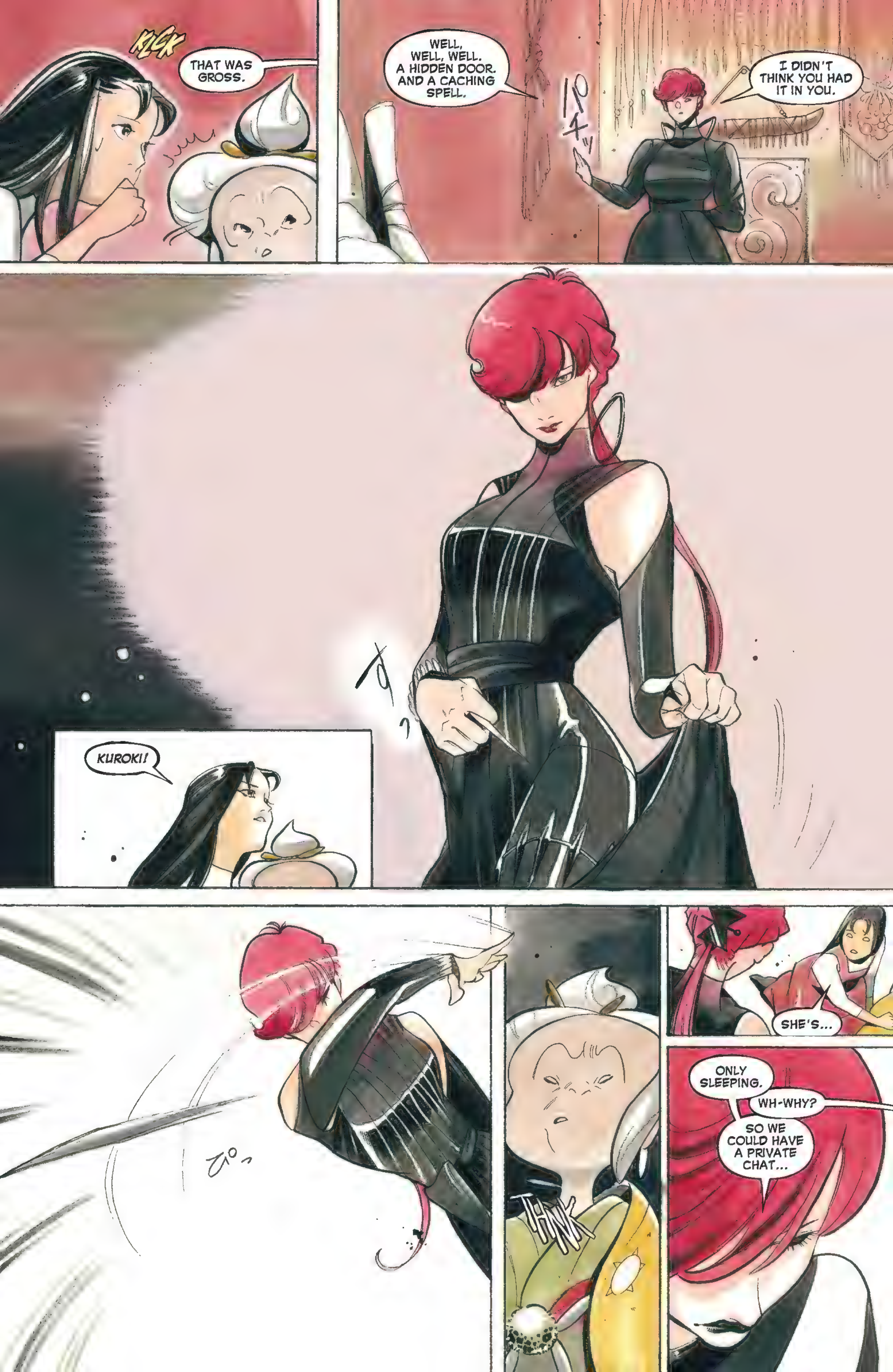

I'VE KEPT THIS ROOM HIDDEN FROM YOU.
I'M SORRY TO SAY I'VE KEPT *MANY* THINGS HIDDEN FROM YOU...
MY ONLY HOPE IS ONCE YOU'VE HEARD EVERYTHING...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO *GIVE* YOU. BUT BEFORE YOU ARE READY TO RECEIVE IT, THERE ARE THINGS YOU MUST KNOW.
THOSE DREAMS YOU'VE BEEN HAVING... THEY'RE NOT DREAMS. NOT REALLY.
THEY'RE *MEMORIES.*
MEMORIES...?
I...I *FOUND* YOU. DEEP IN THE FOGGY MOUNTAINS KNOWN AS *KIRISAKI.*
YOU...ARE NOT MY *TRUE* GRANDDAUGHTER, ALTHOUGH I'VE LOVED YOU AS SUCH.
YOU ARE THE CHILD OF AN *ONI.*

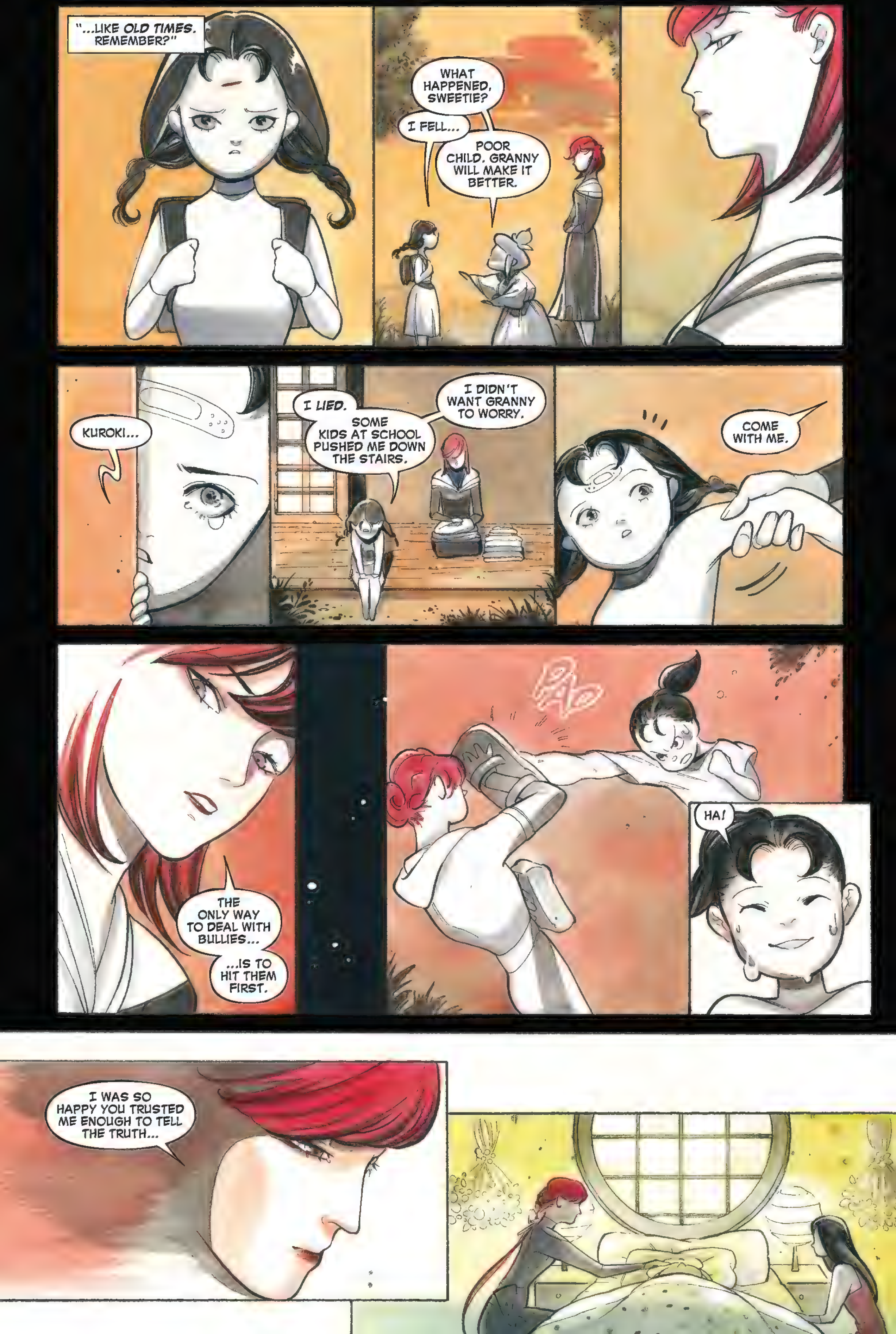

I AM A *JUSHI*, THE LAST OF MY KIND. OUR LINE STRETCHES BACK TO THE GREAT *JUJU* HERSELF.
I LEARNED ALL THE CHANTS AND STORIES ABOUT *ONI* AND *YOKAI* AND *MAGIC*. BUT I NEVER *BELIEVED* THEM.
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WERE *REAL*...UNTIL I MET YOU...
...AND YOUR *MOTHER*.
"I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY. THE FOG WAS THICK...
"I'D GONE TO KIRISAKI TO PICK MEDICINES.
I-IT CAN'T BE...
AN O-ONI...

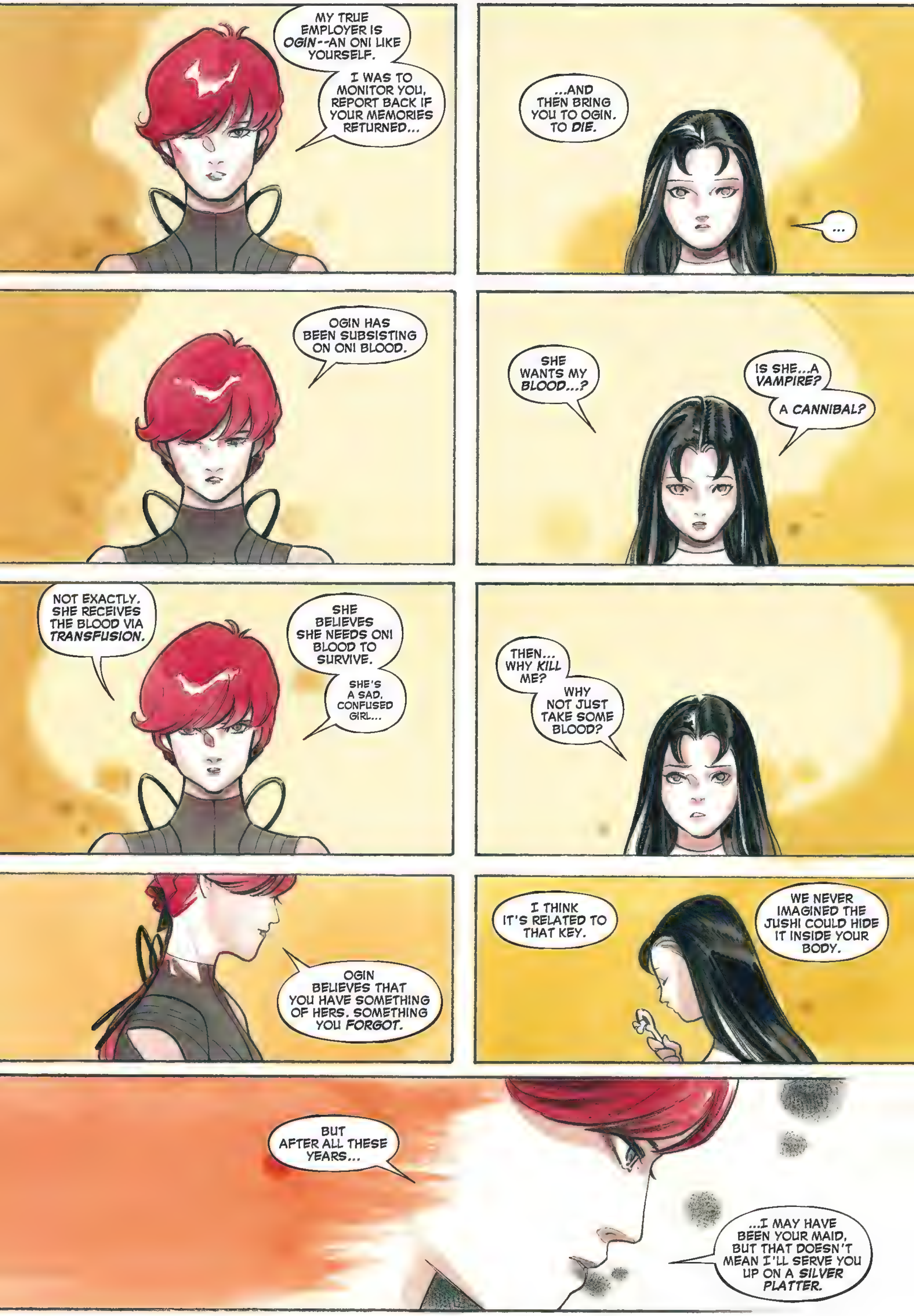

...SHE'S DEAD...
NAMU AMI DABU...
HUH?
...A LITTLE GIRL...
"THAT WAS *YOU*, MARIKO."
I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU TO DIE. SO I BROUGHT YOU HOME--RAISED YOU AS MY OWN.
I HID YOUR PAST FROM YOU. I TRIED TO SPARE YOU THAT *PAIN*. THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
I'M SO SORRY, CHILD.

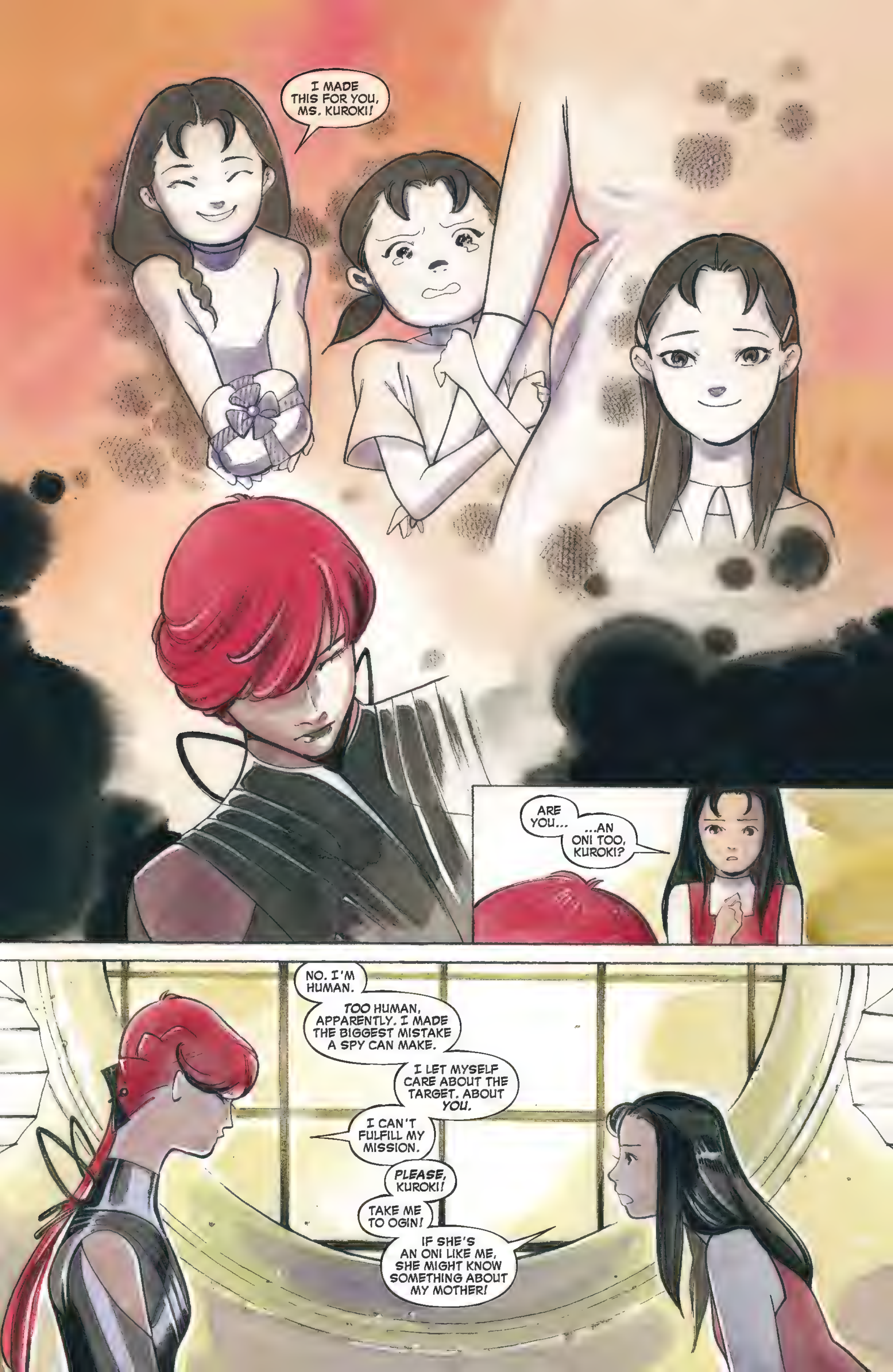

WHEN I FOUND YOU, YOU WERE CLUTCHING A TANTO KNIFE.
I LOCKED IT BEHIND THIS DOOR--AND HID THE KEY.
IT'S TIME TO GIVE IT BACK.
I'M A LITTLE RUSTY. BEAR WITH ME.
THIS IS GOING TO FEEL STRANGE.
すう
ぶわ

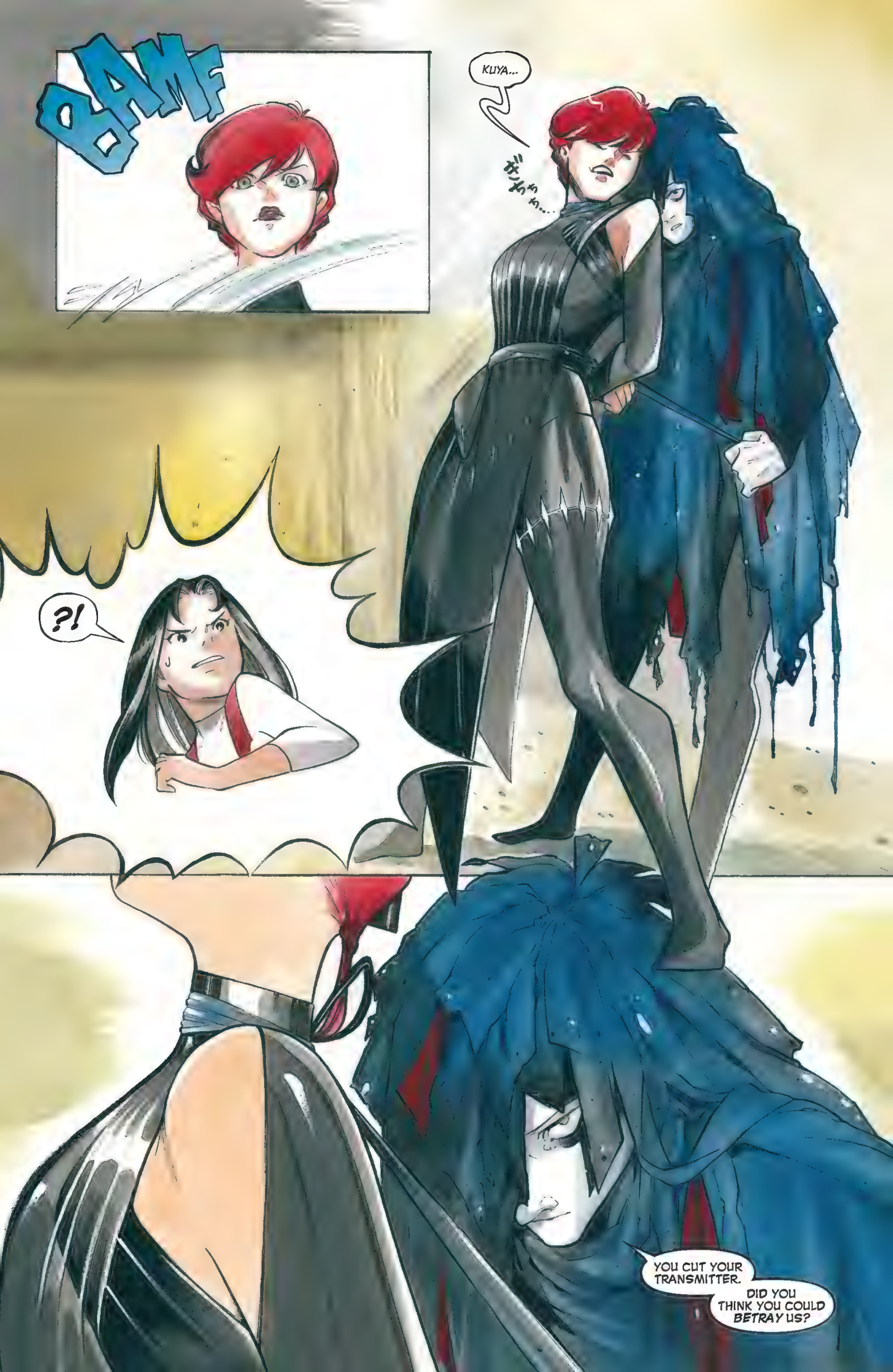

URRK
BLRRK
ULLMP
PAAAAH!
DRIP

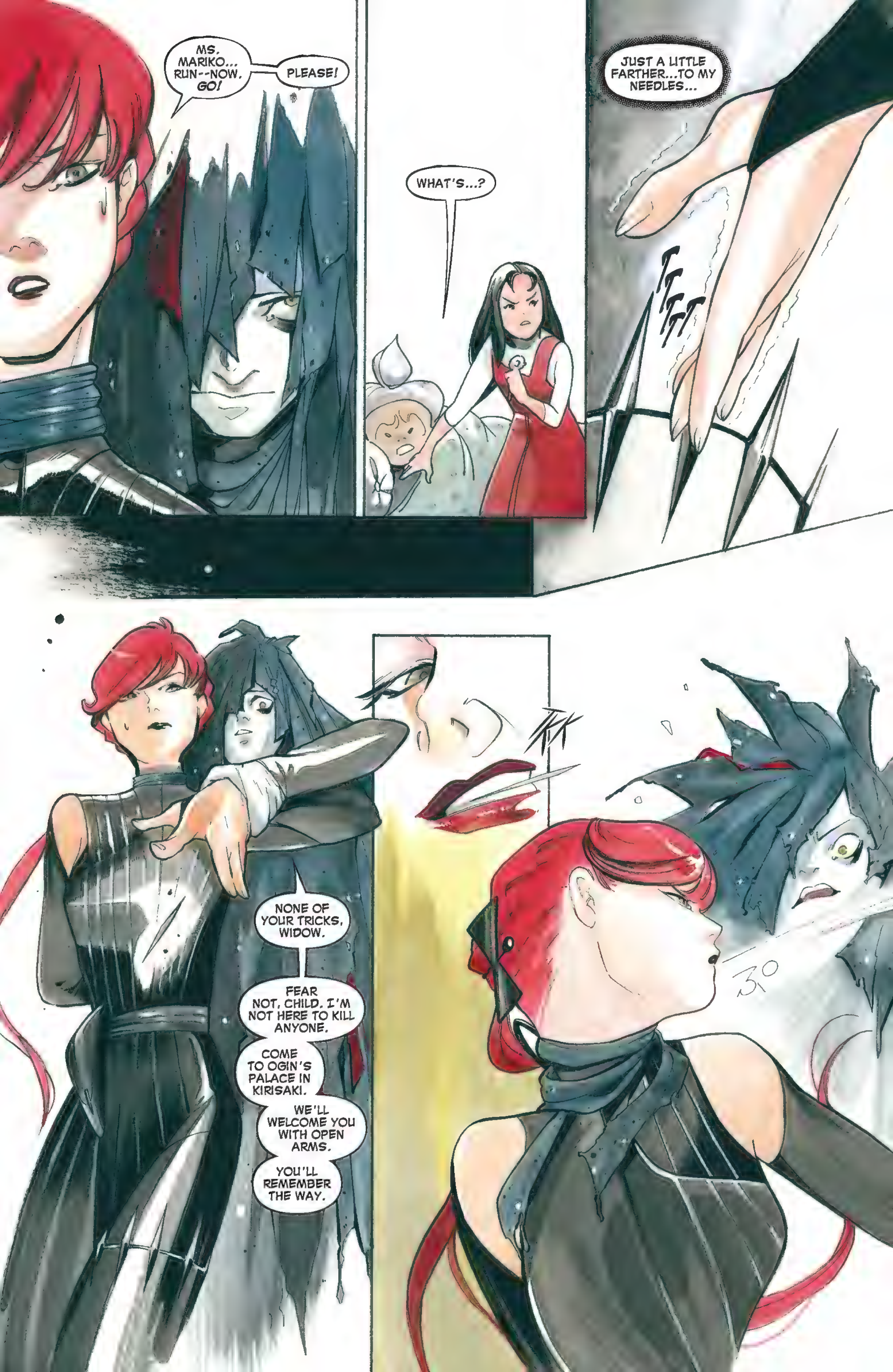

KLICK
THAT WAS GROSS.
WELL, WELL, WELL. A HIDDEN DOOR. AND A CACHING SPELL.
パチッ
I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
すっ
KUROKI!
ぴっ
THNK
SHE'S...
ONLY SLEEPING.
WH-WHY?
SO WE COULD HAVE A PRIVATE CHAT...

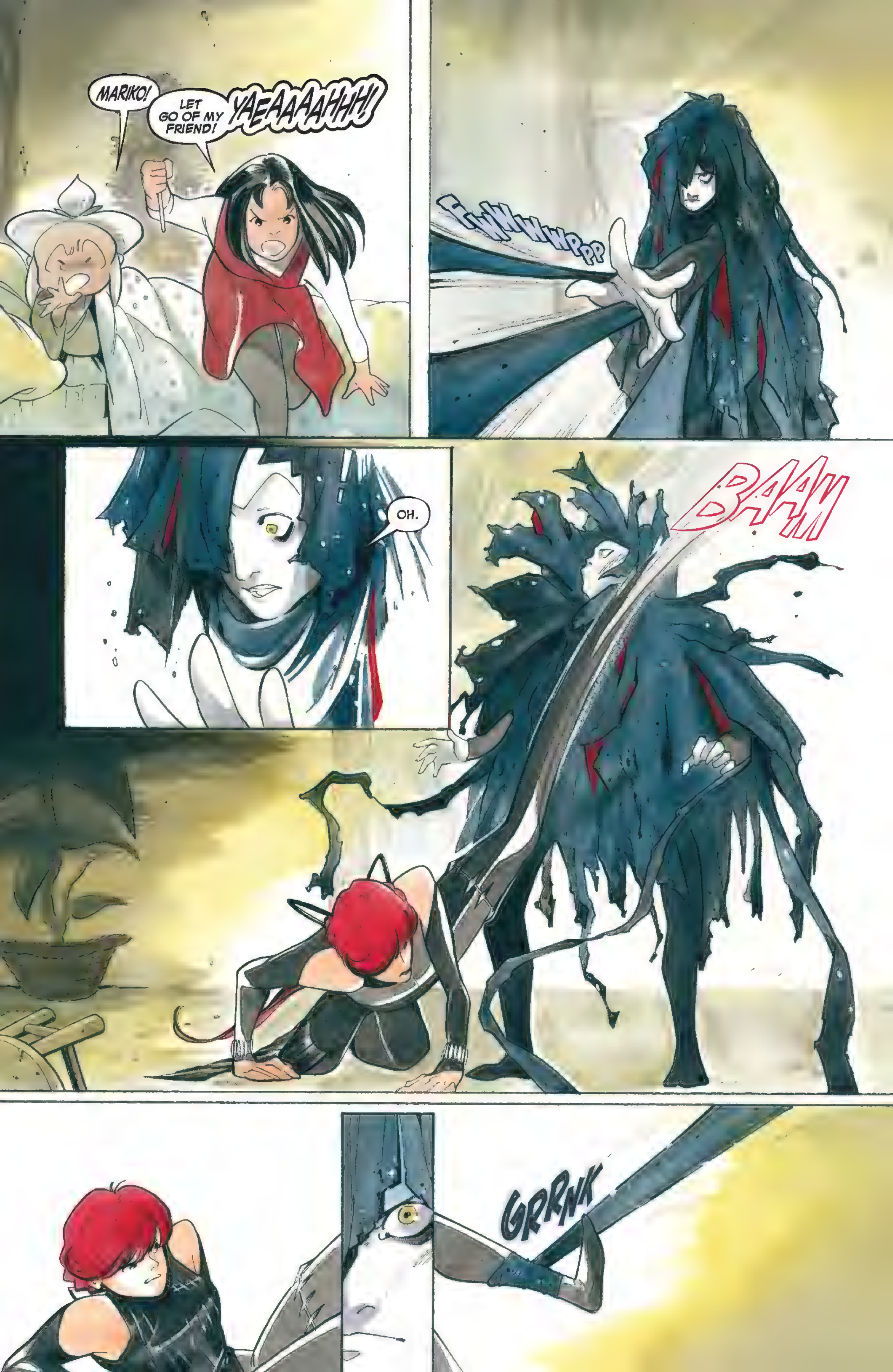

"...LIKE OLD TIMES. REMEMBER?"
WHAT HAPPENED, SWEETIE?
I FELL...
POOR CHILD. GRANNY WILL MAKE IT BETTER.
KUROKI...
I LIED.
SOME KIDS AT SCHOOL PUSHED ME DOWN THE STAIRS.
I DIDN'T WANT GRANNY TO WORRY.
COME WITH ME.
THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH BULLIES...
...IS TO HIT THEM FIRST.
HA!
I WAS SO HAPPY YOU TRUSTED ME ENOUGH TO TELL THE TRUTH...

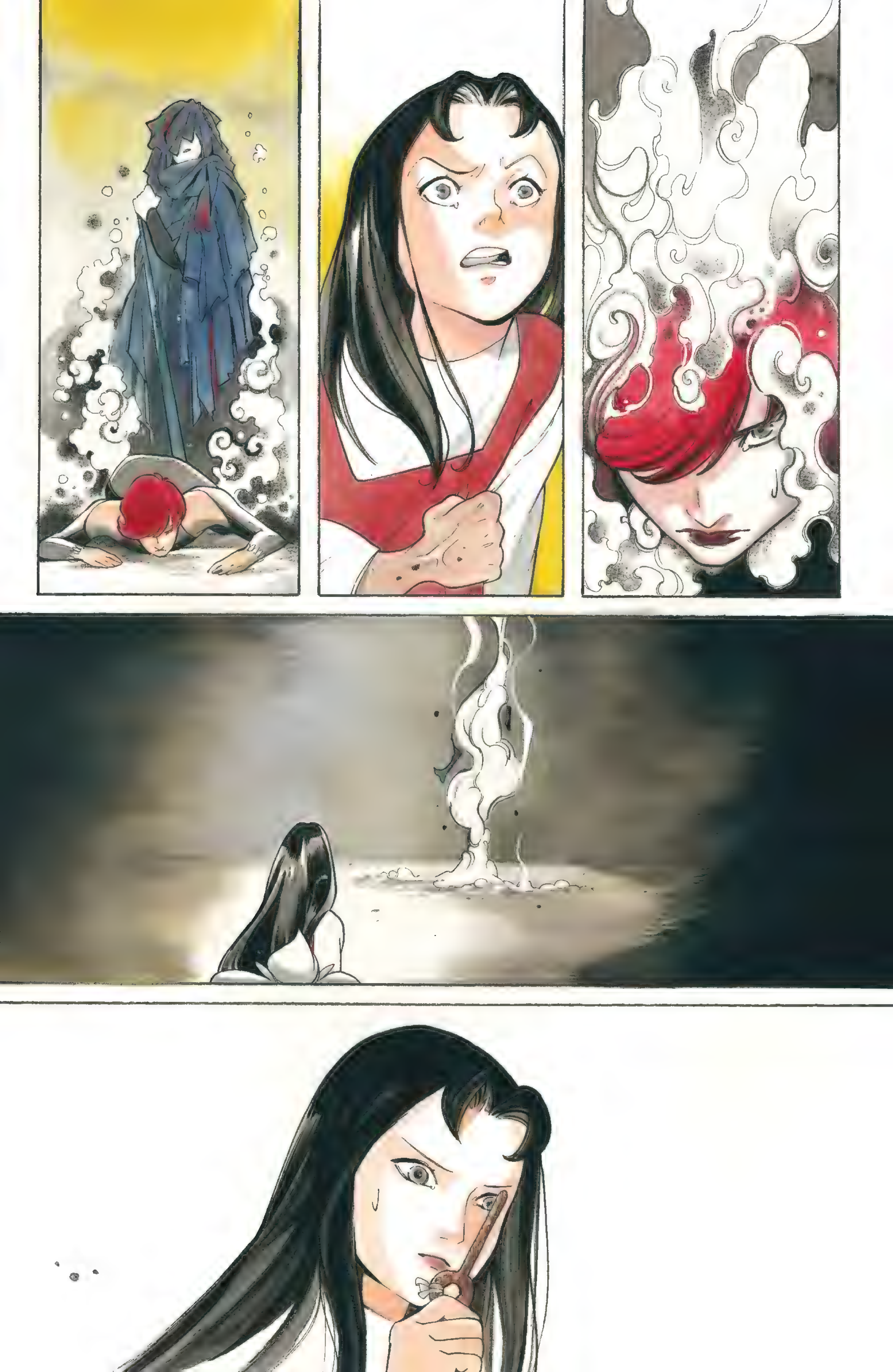

MY TRUE EMPLOYER IS *OGIN*--AN ONI LIKE YOURSELF.
I WAS TO MONITOR YOU, REPORT BACK IF YOUR MEMORIES RETURNED...
...AND THEN BRING YOU TO OGIN. TO *DIE*.
...
OGIN HAS BEEN SUBSISTING ON ONI BLOOD.
SHE WANTS MY *BLOOD...?*
IS SHE...A *VAMPIRE?*
A *CANNIBAL?*
NOT EXACTLY. SHE RECEIVES THE BLOOD VIA *TRANSFUSION*.
SHE BELIEVES SHE NEEDS ONI BLOOD TO SURVIVE.
SHE'S A SAD, CONFUSED GIRL...
THEN... WHY *KILL* ME?
WHY NOT JUST TAKE SOME BLOOD?
OGIN BELIEVES THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF HERS. SOMETHING YOU *FORGOT*.
I THINK IT'S RELATED TO THAT KEY.
WE NEVER IMAGINED THE JUSHI COULD HIDE IT INSIDE YOUR BODY.
BUT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
...I MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR MAID, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL SERVE YOU UP ON A *SILVER PLATTER*.

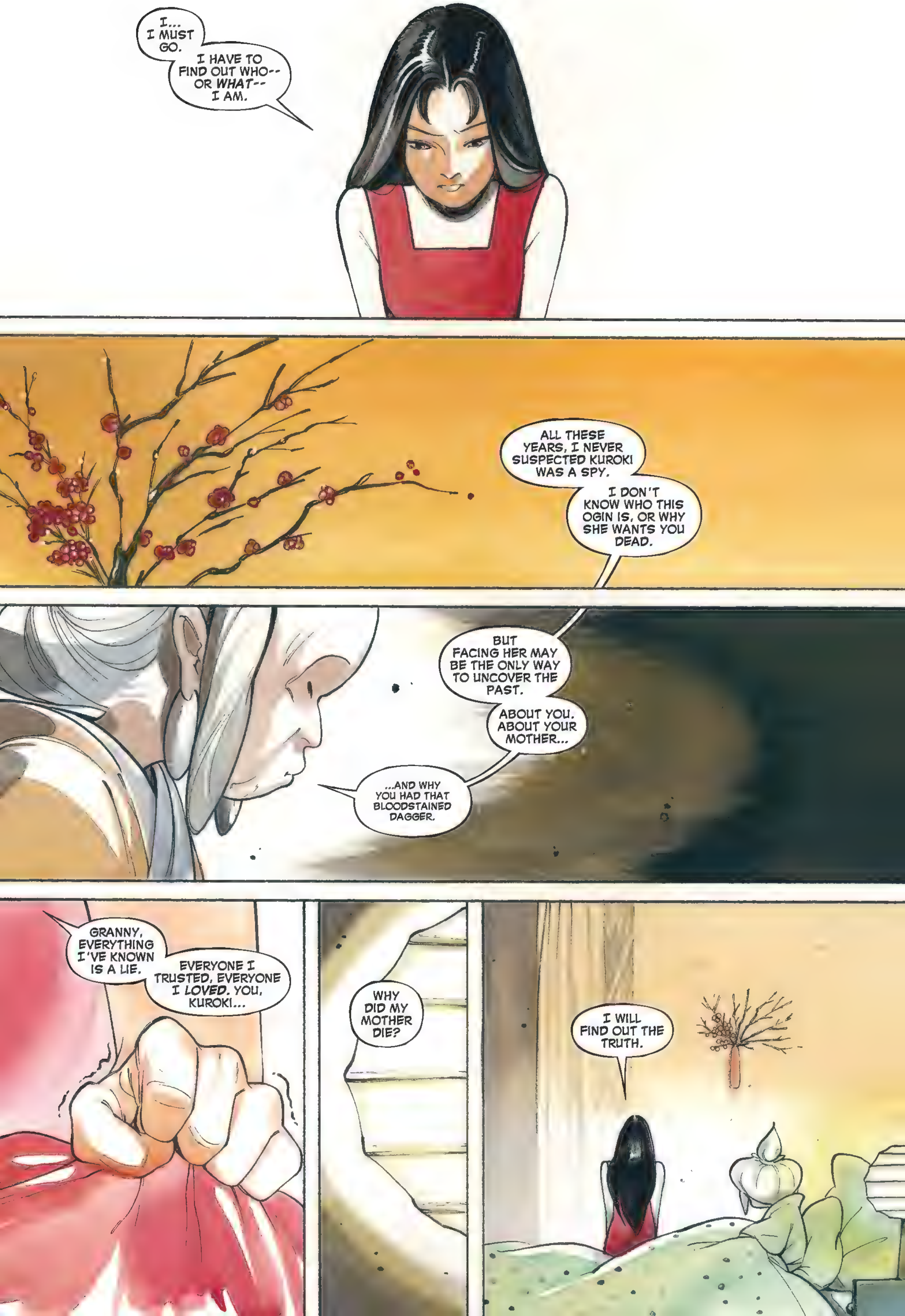

I MADE THIS FOR YOU, MS. KUROKI!
ARE YOU...
...AN ONI TOO, KUROKI?
NO. I'M HUMAN.
TOO HUMAN, APPARENTLY. I MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE A SPY CAN MAKE.
I LET MYSELF CARE ABOUT THE TARGET. ABOUT *YOU.*
I CAN'T FULFILL MY MISSION.
PLEASE, KUROKI!
TAKE ME TO OGIN!
IF SHE'S AN ONI LIKE ME, SHE MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT MY MOTHER!

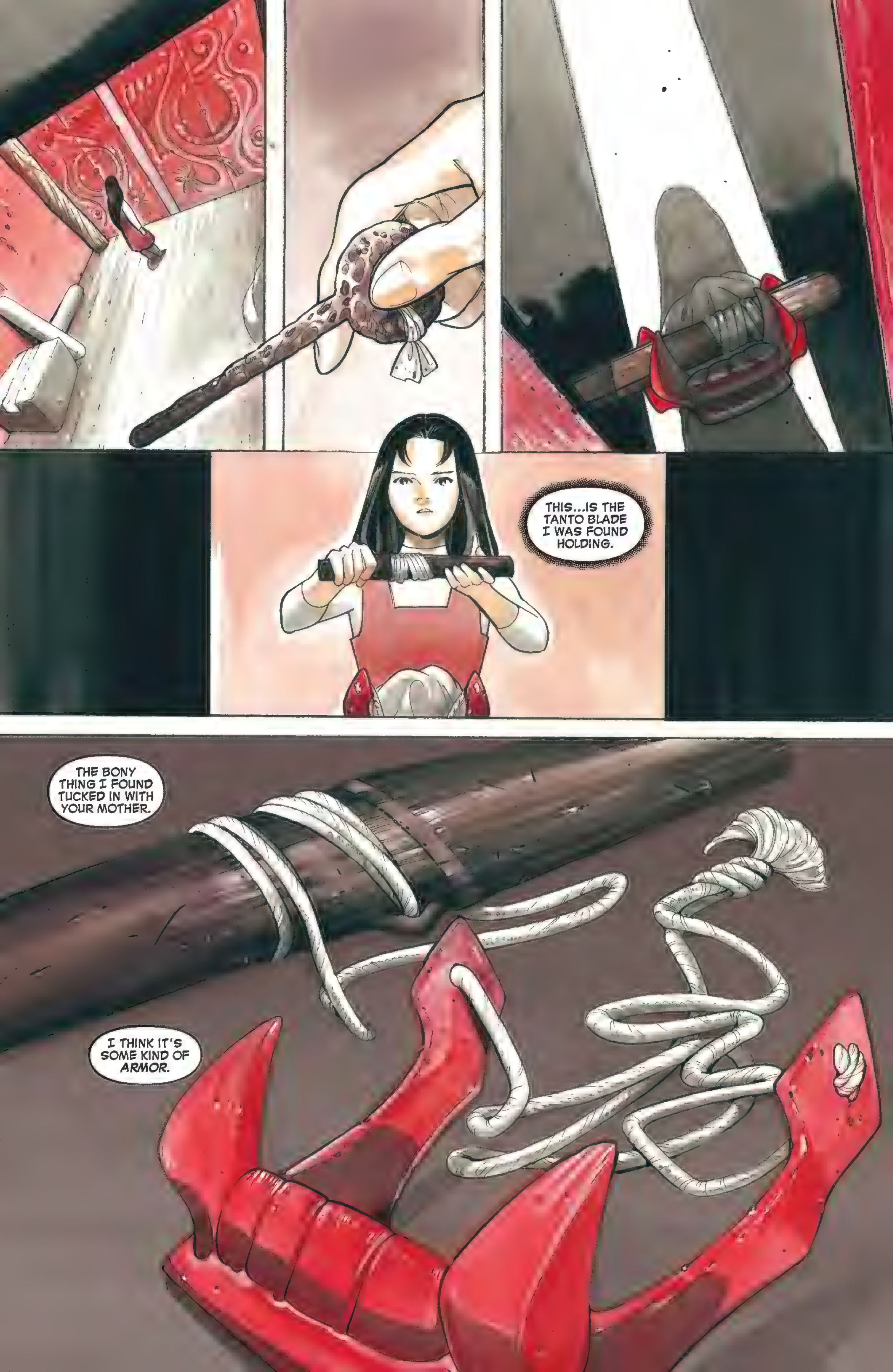

BAMF
KUYA...
ぎちちち...
?!
YOU CUT YOUR TRANSMITTER.
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD *BETRAY* US?

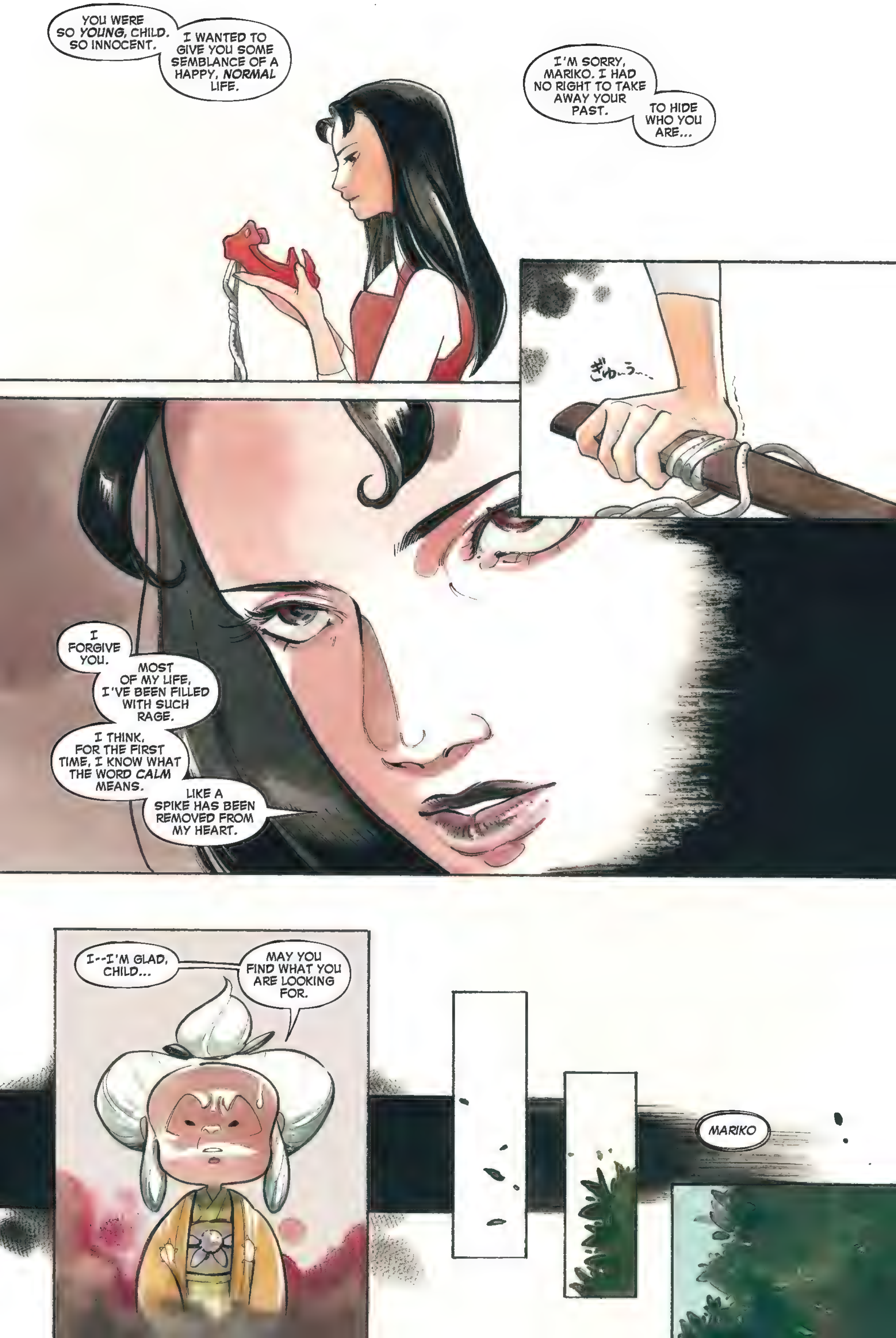

MS. MARIKO... RUN--NOW. GO!
PLEASE!
WHAT'S...?
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER...TO MY NEEDLES...
TTTT
NONE OF YOUR TRICKS, WIDOW.
FEAR NOT, CHILD. I'M NOT HERE TO KILL ANYONE.
COME TO OGIN'S PALACE IN KIRISAKI.
WE'LL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.
YOU'LL REMEMBER THE WAY.
TKK
30

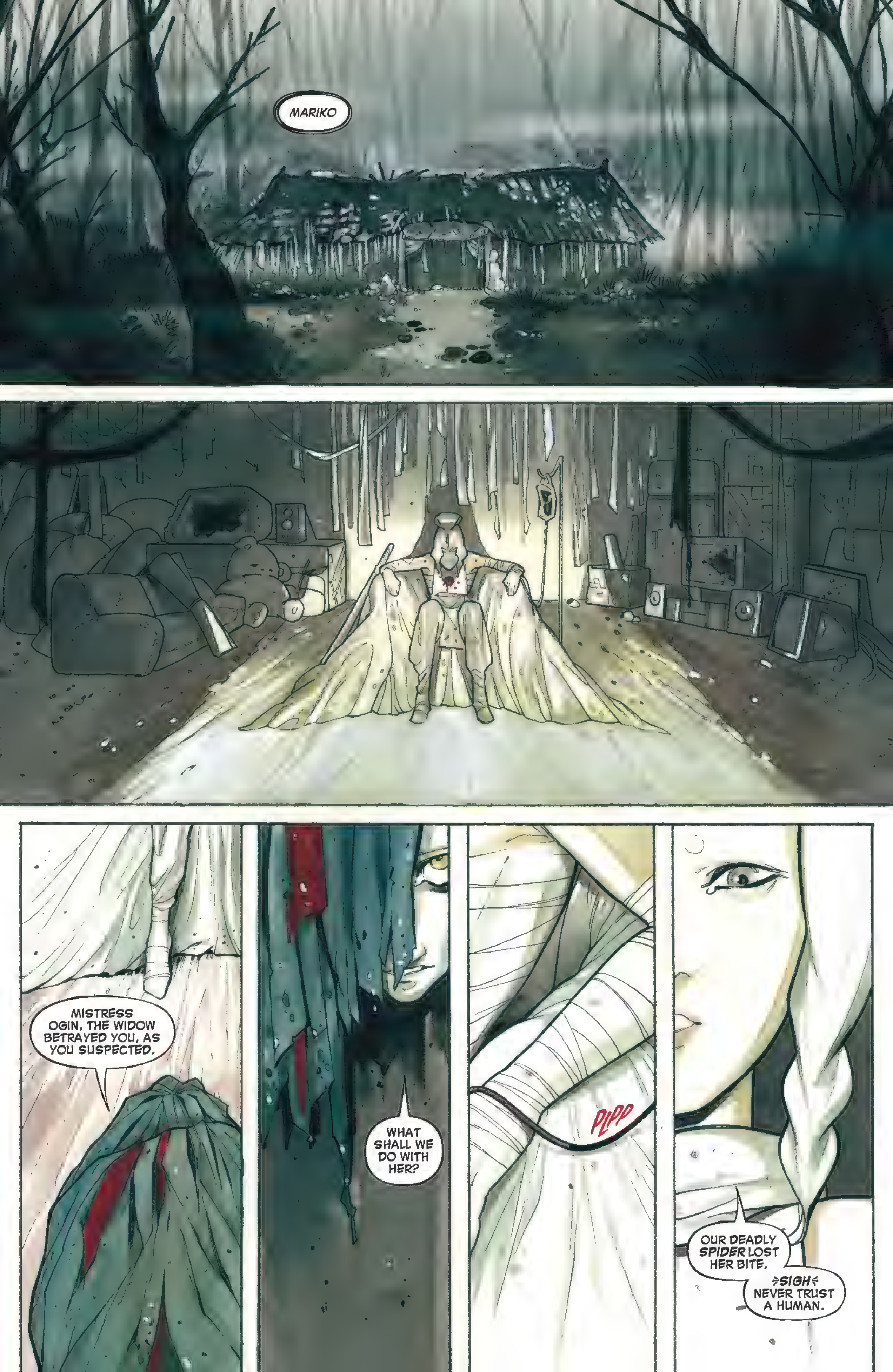

MARIKO!
LET GO OF MY FRIEND!
YAEAAAAAHH!
FWWWWPPP
OH.
BAAM
GRRNK

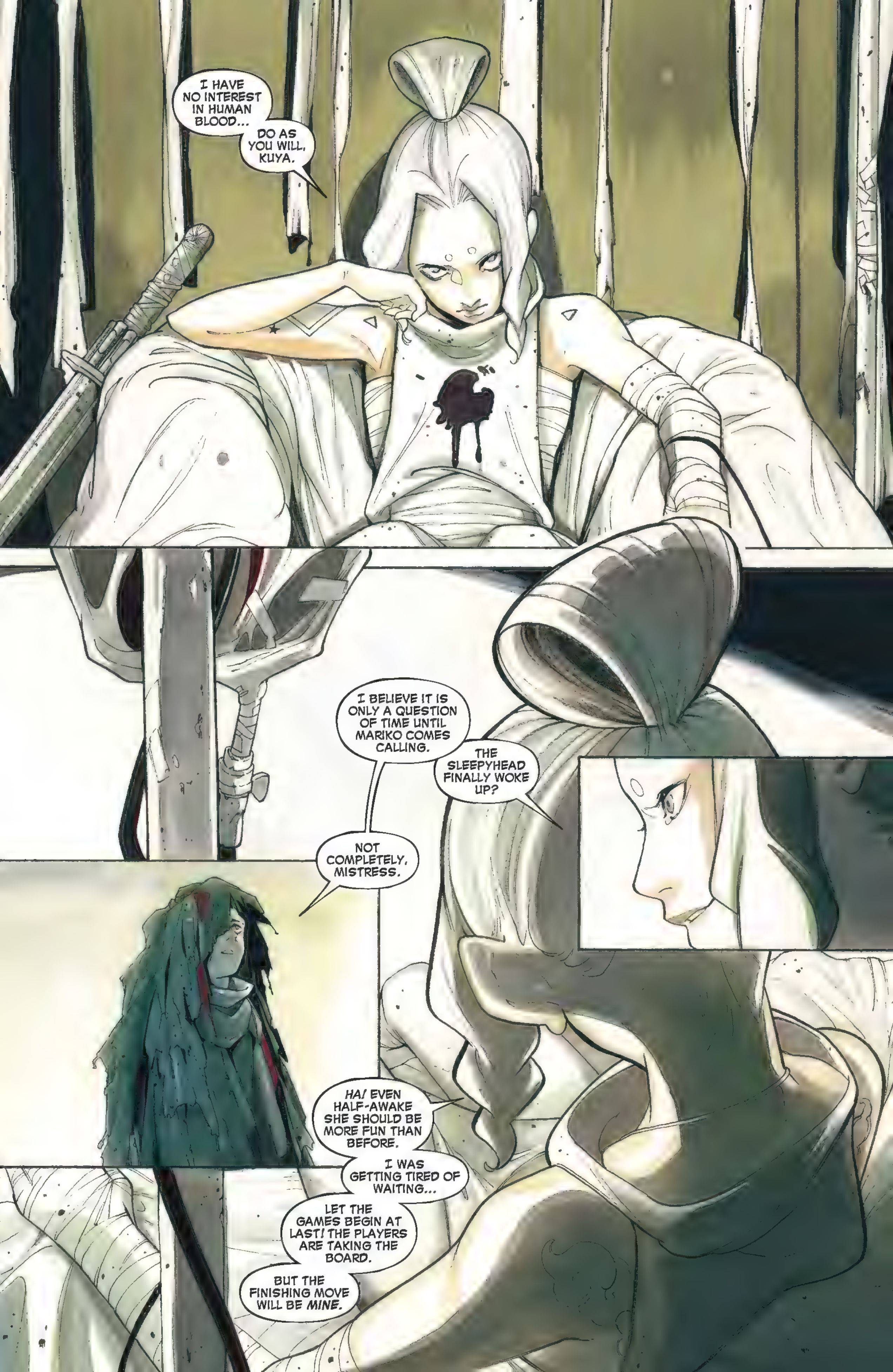


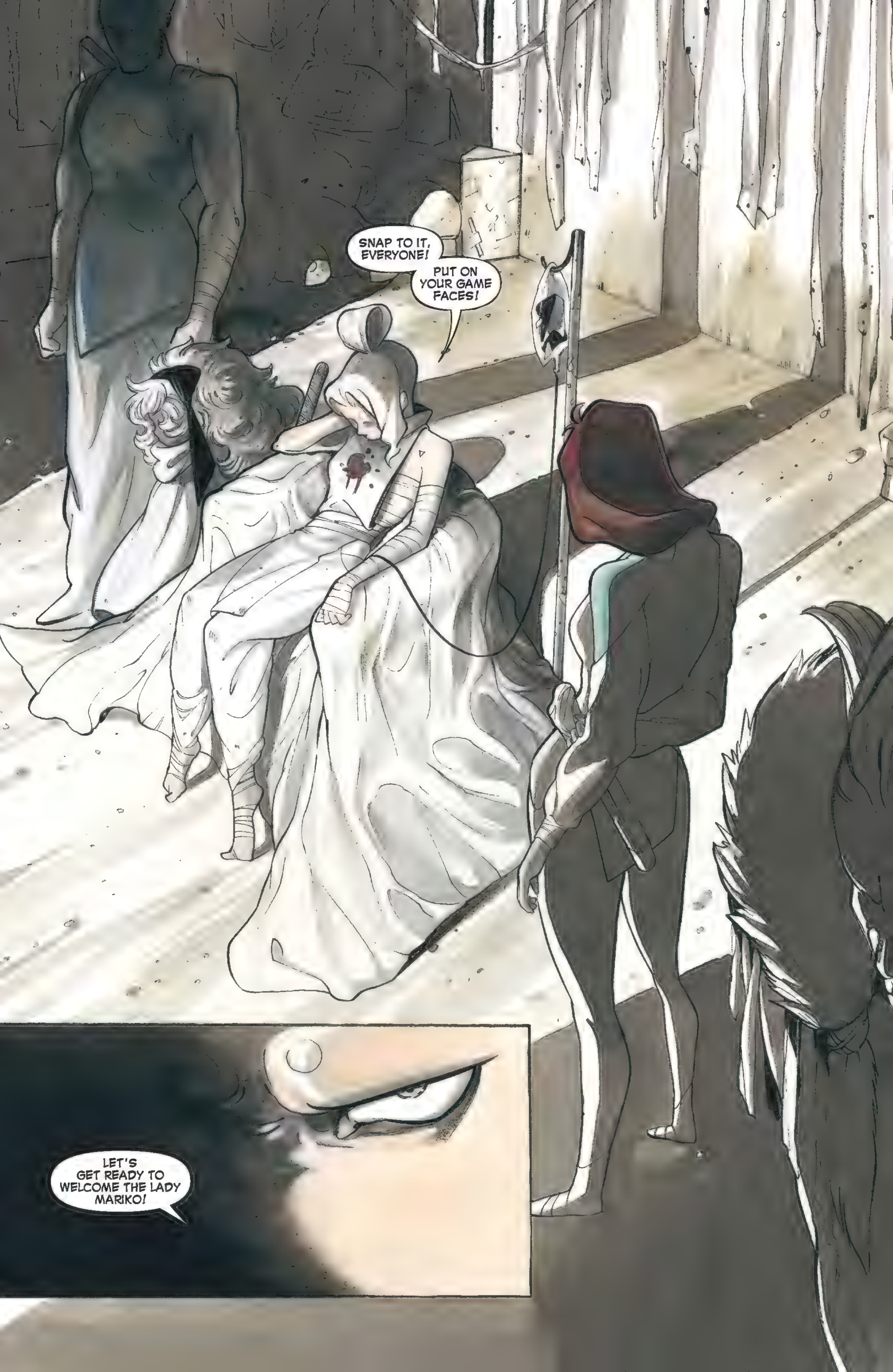

I... I MUST GO.
I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO-- OR *WHAT*-- I AM.
ALL THESE YEARS, I NEVER SUSPECTED KUROKI WAS A SPY.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS OGIN IS, OR WHY SHE WANTS YOU DEAD.
BUT FACING HER MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO UNCOVER THE PAST.
ABOUT YOU. ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...
...AND WHY YOU HAD THAT BLOODSTAINED DAGGER.
GRANNY, EVERYTHING I'VE KNOWN IS A LIE.
EVERYONE I TRUSTED, EVERYONE I *LOVED*. YOU, KUROKI...
WHY DID MY MOTHER DIE?
I WILL FIND OUT THE TRUTH.


THIS...IS THE TANTO BLADE I WAS FOUND HOLDING.
THE BONY THING I FOUND TUCKED IN WITH YOUR MOTHER.
I THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF ARMOR.

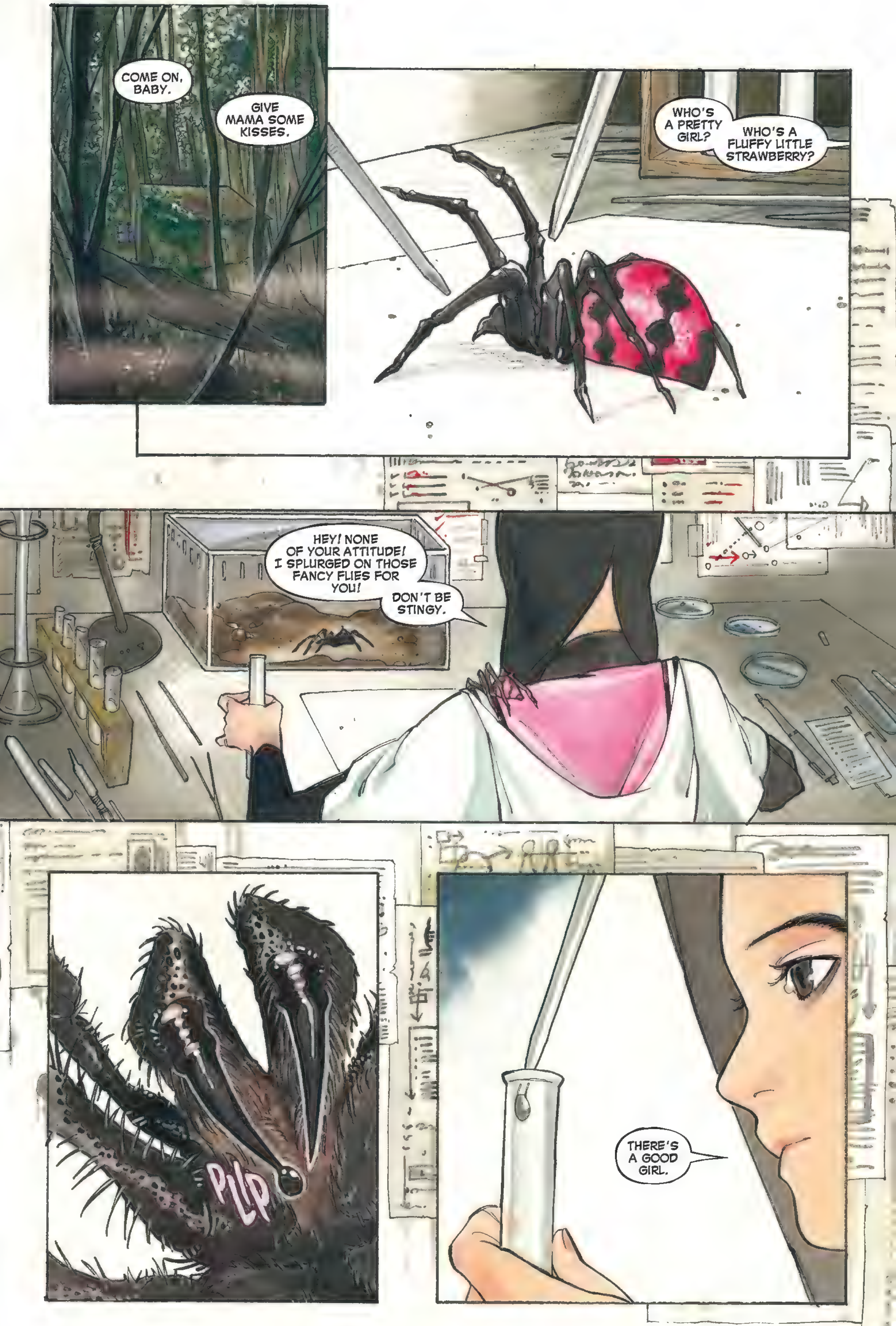

YOU WERE SO *YOUNG*, CHILD. SO INNOCENT.
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOME SEMBLANCE OF A HAPPY, *NORMAL* LIFE.
I'M SORRY, MARIKO. I HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE AWAY YOUR PAST.
TO HIDE WHO YOU ARE...
ぎゅ～う～…
I FORGIVE YOU.
MOST OF MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN FILLED WITH SUCH RAGE.
I THINK, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I KNOW WHAT THE WORD *CALM* MEANS.
LIKE A SPIKE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM MY HEART.
I--I'M GLAD, CHILD...
MAY YOU FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.
MARIKO

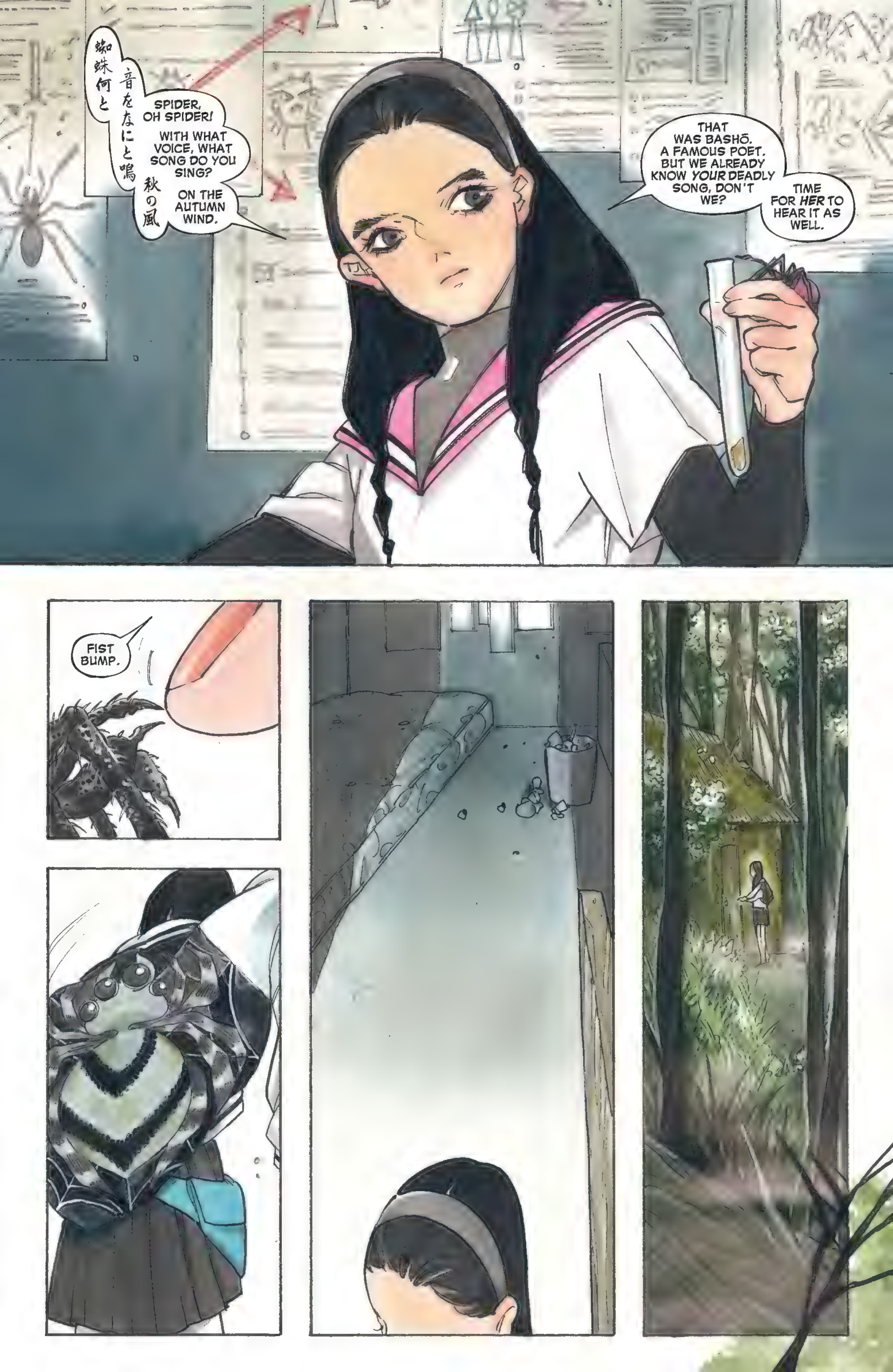

MARIKO
MISTRESS OGIN, THE WIDOW BETRAYED YOU, AS YOU SUSPECTED.
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HER?
PLPP
OUR DEADLY *SPIDER* LOST HER BITE.
SIGH NEVER TRUST A HUMAN.

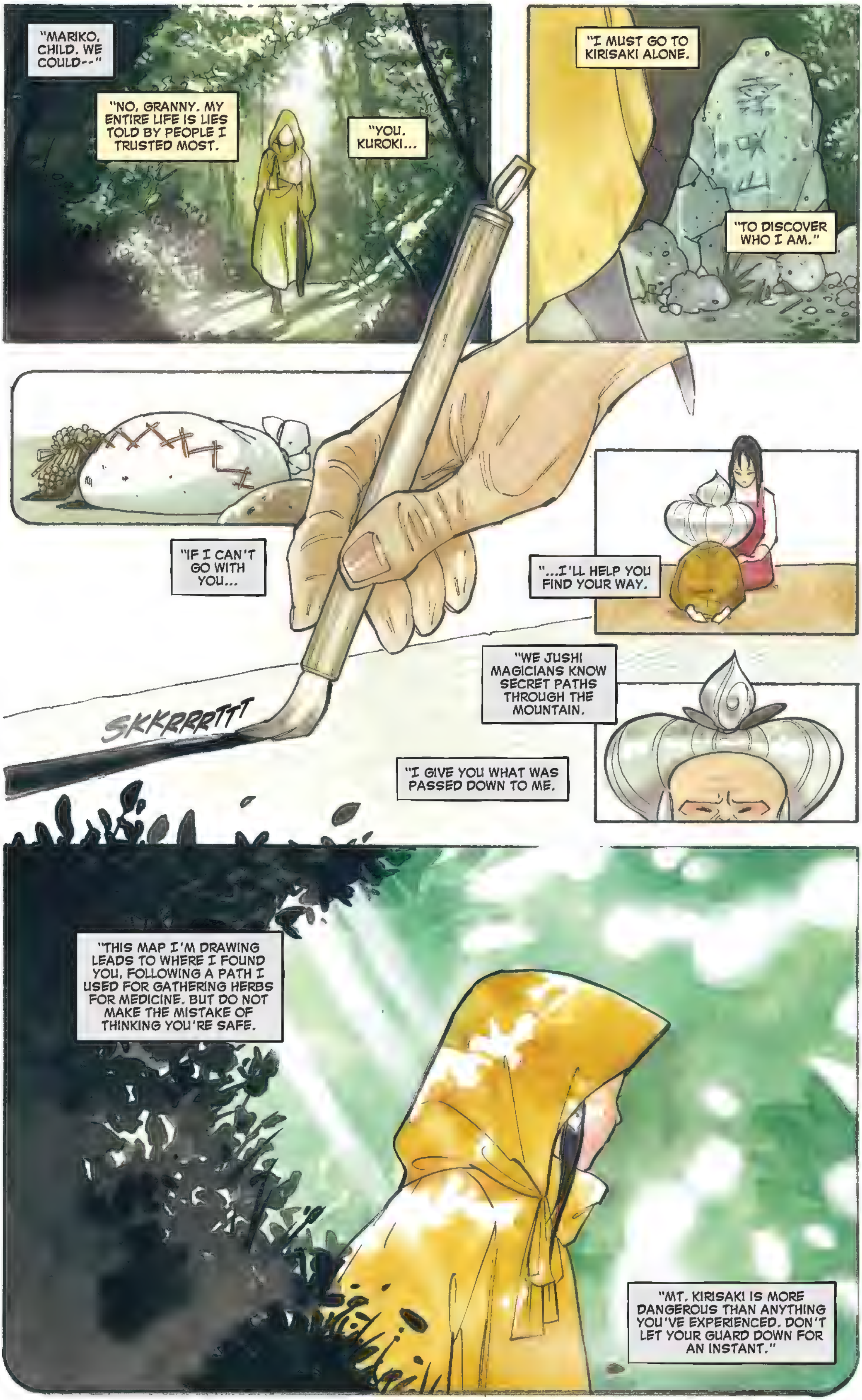

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN HUMAN BLOOD...
DO AS YOU WILL, KUYA.
I BELIEVE IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME UNTIL MARIKO COMES CALLING.
THE SLEEPYHEAD FINALLY WOKE UP?
NOT COMPLETELY, MISTRESS.
HA! EVEN HALF-AWAKE SHE SHOULD BE MORE FUN THAN BEFORE.
I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING...
LET THE GAMES BEGIN AT LAST! THE PLAYERS ARE TAKING THE BOARD.
BUT THE FINISHING MOVE WILL BE *MINE*.

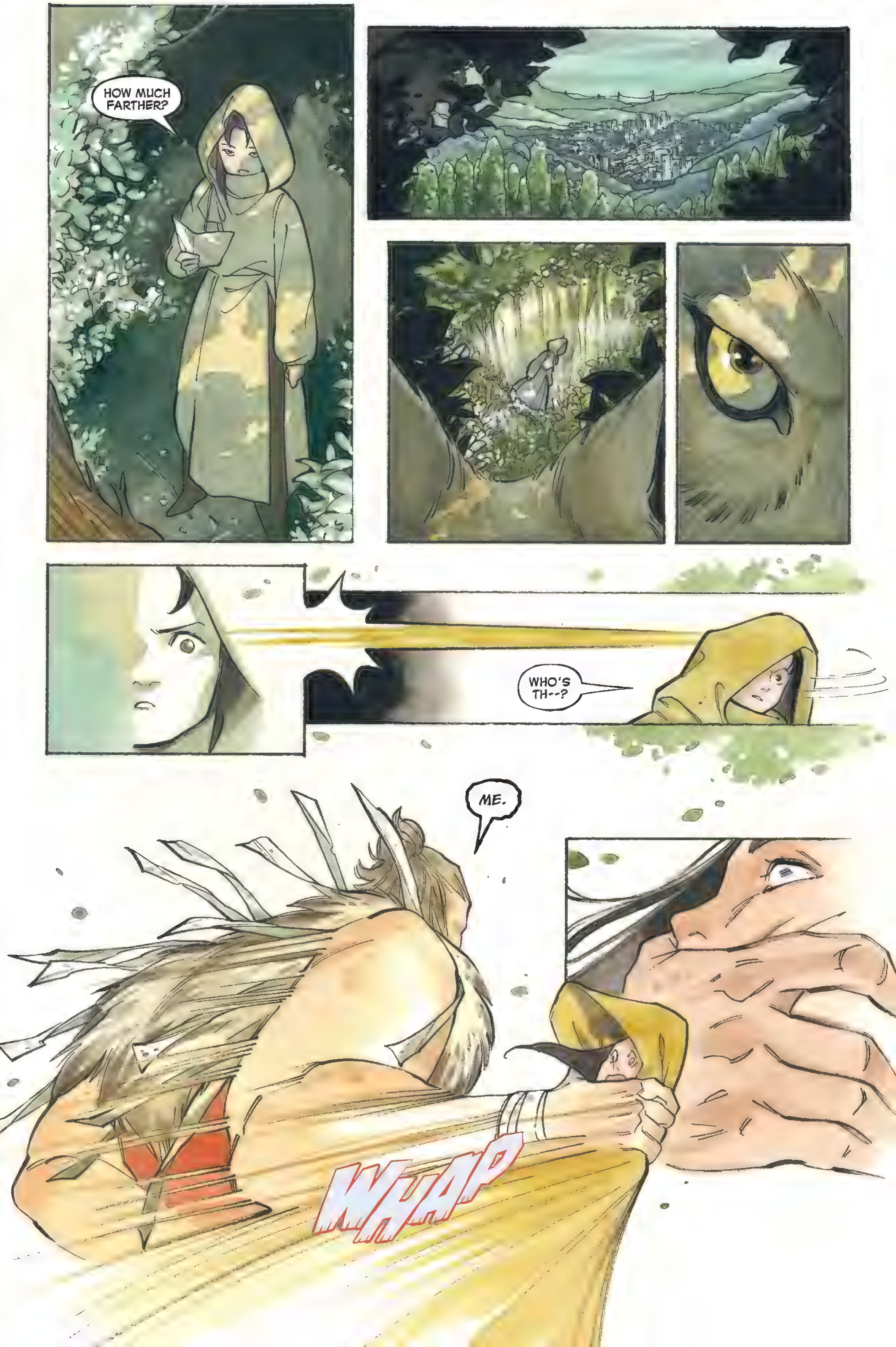

SNAP TO IT, EVERYONE!
PUT ON YOUR GAME FACES!
LET'S GET READY TO WELCOME THE LADY MARIKO!

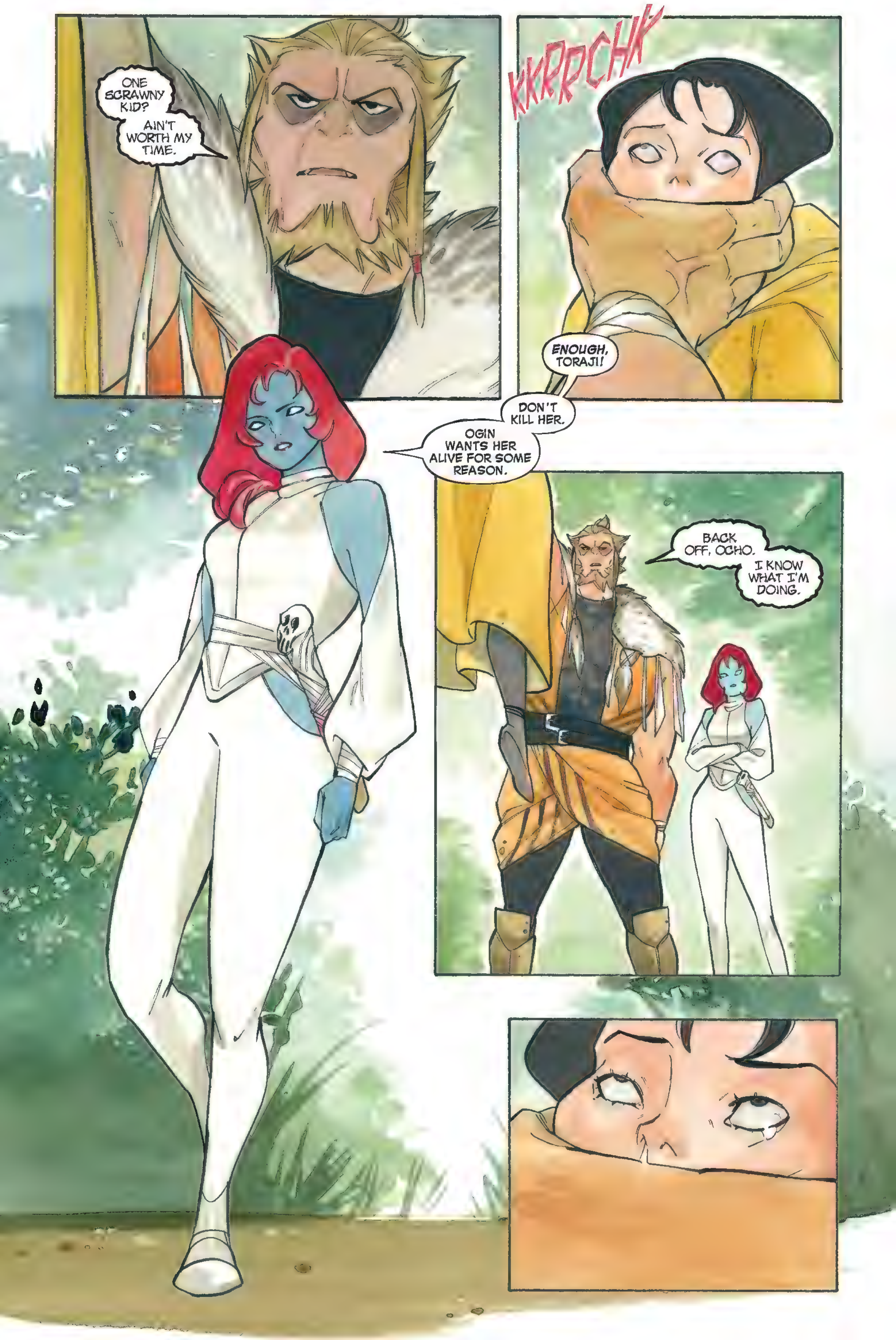
霧咲山
DEMON DAYS
CURSED WEB

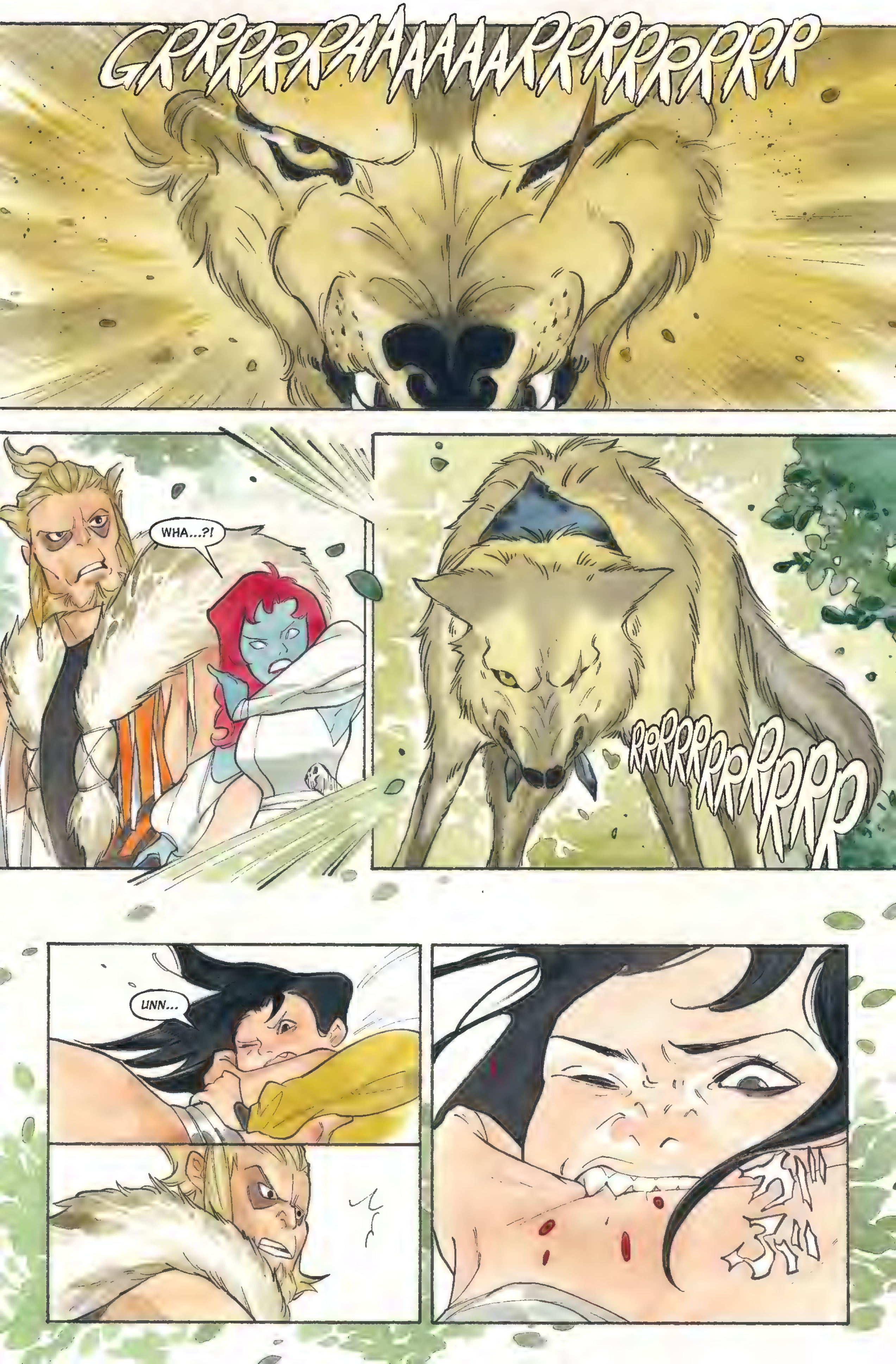

COME ON, BABY.
GIVE MAMA SOME KISSES.
WHO'S A PRETTY GIRL?
WHO'S A FLUFFY LITTLE STRAWBERRY?
HEY! NONE OF YOUR ATTITUDE! I SPLURGED ON THOSE FANCY FLIES FOR YOU!
DON'T BE STINGY.
PLIP
THERE'S A GOOD GIRL.

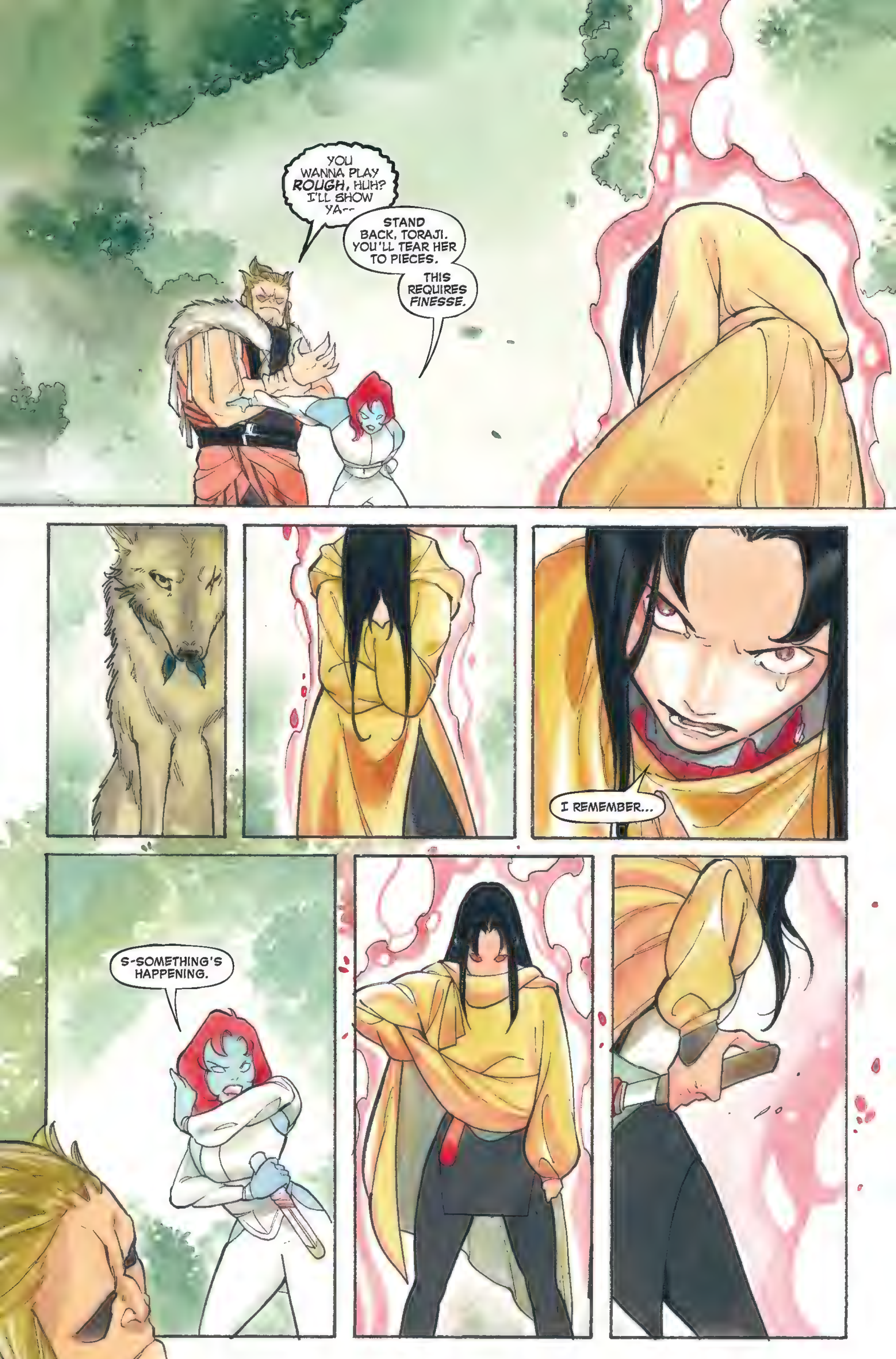

蜘蛛何と
音をなにと鳴
秋の風
SPIDER, OH SPIDER!
WITH WHAT VOICE, WHAT SONG DO YOU SING?
ON THE AUTUMN WIND.
THAT WAS BASHŌ. A FAMOUS POET. BUT WE ALREADY KNOW *YOUR* DEADLY SONG, DON'T WE?
TIME FOR *HER* TO HEAR IT AS WELL.
FIST BUMP.

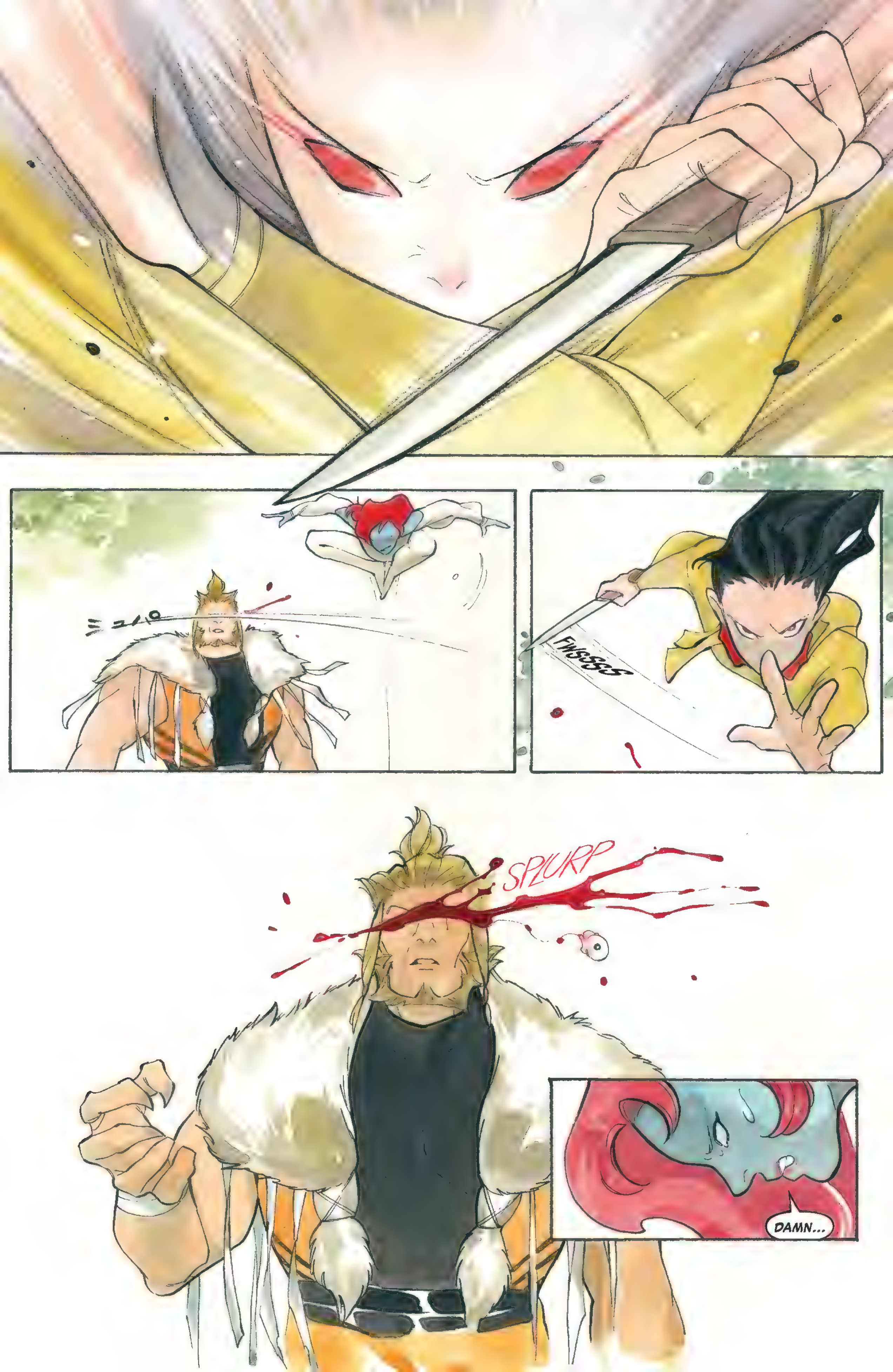

"MARIKO, CHILD. WE COULD--"
"NO, GRANNY. MY ENTIRE LIFE IS LIES TOLD BY PEOPLE I TRUSTED MOST.
"YOU. KUROKI...
"I MUST GO TO KIRISAKI ALONE.
"TO DISCOVER WHO I AM."
"IF I CAN'T GO WITH YOU...
"...I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY.
"WE JUSHI MAGICIANS KNOW SECRET PATHS THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN.
"I GIVE YOU WHAT WAS PASSED DOWN TO ME.
SKKRRRTTT
"THIS MAP I'M DRAWING LEADS TO WHERE I FOUND YOU, FOLLOWING A PATH I USED FOR GATHERING HERBS FOR MEDICINE. BUT DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING YOU'RE SAFE.
"MT. KIRISAKI IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANYTHING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN FOR AN INSTANT."

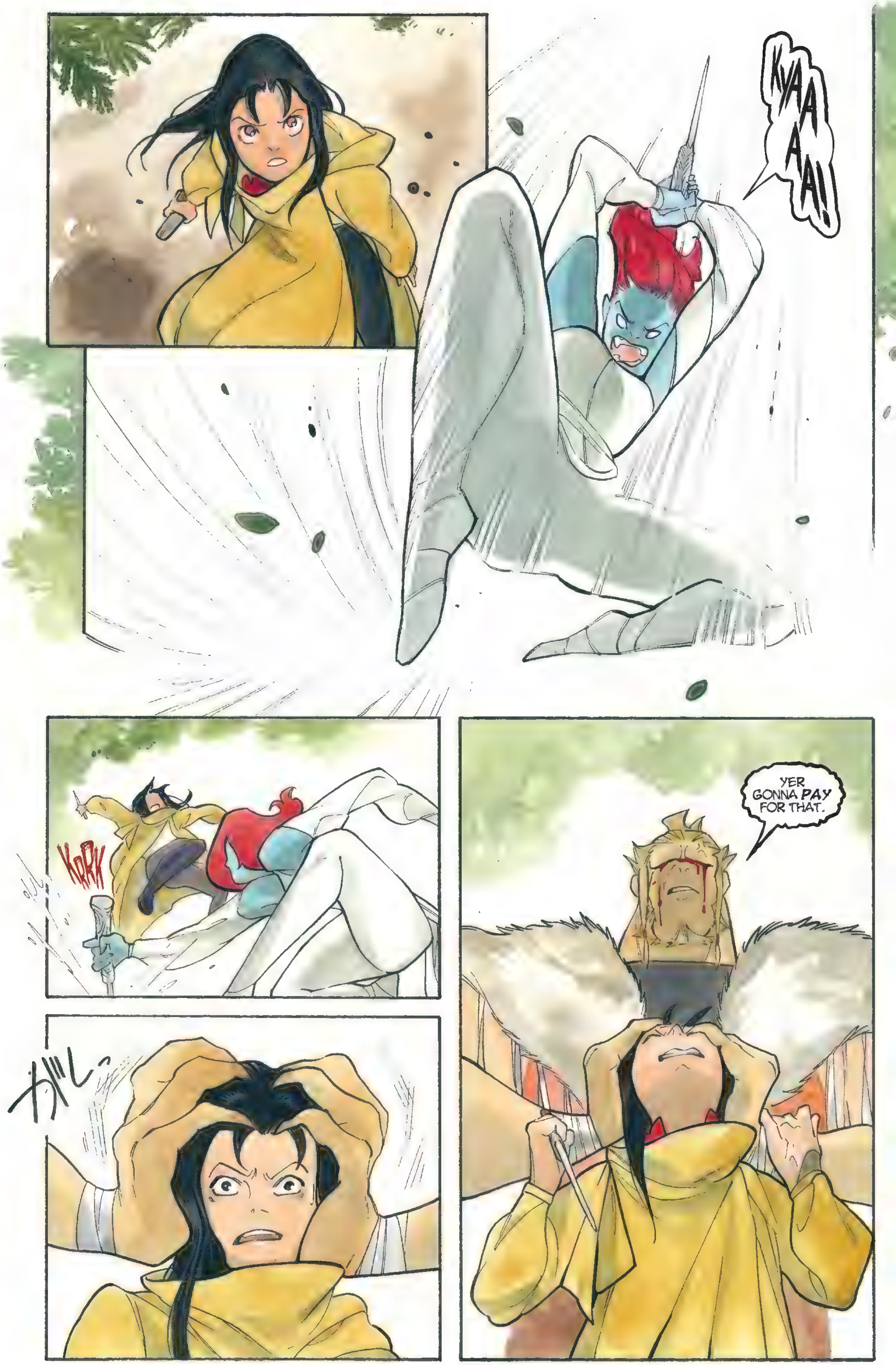

HOW MUCH FARTHER?
WHO'S TH--?
ME.
WHAP

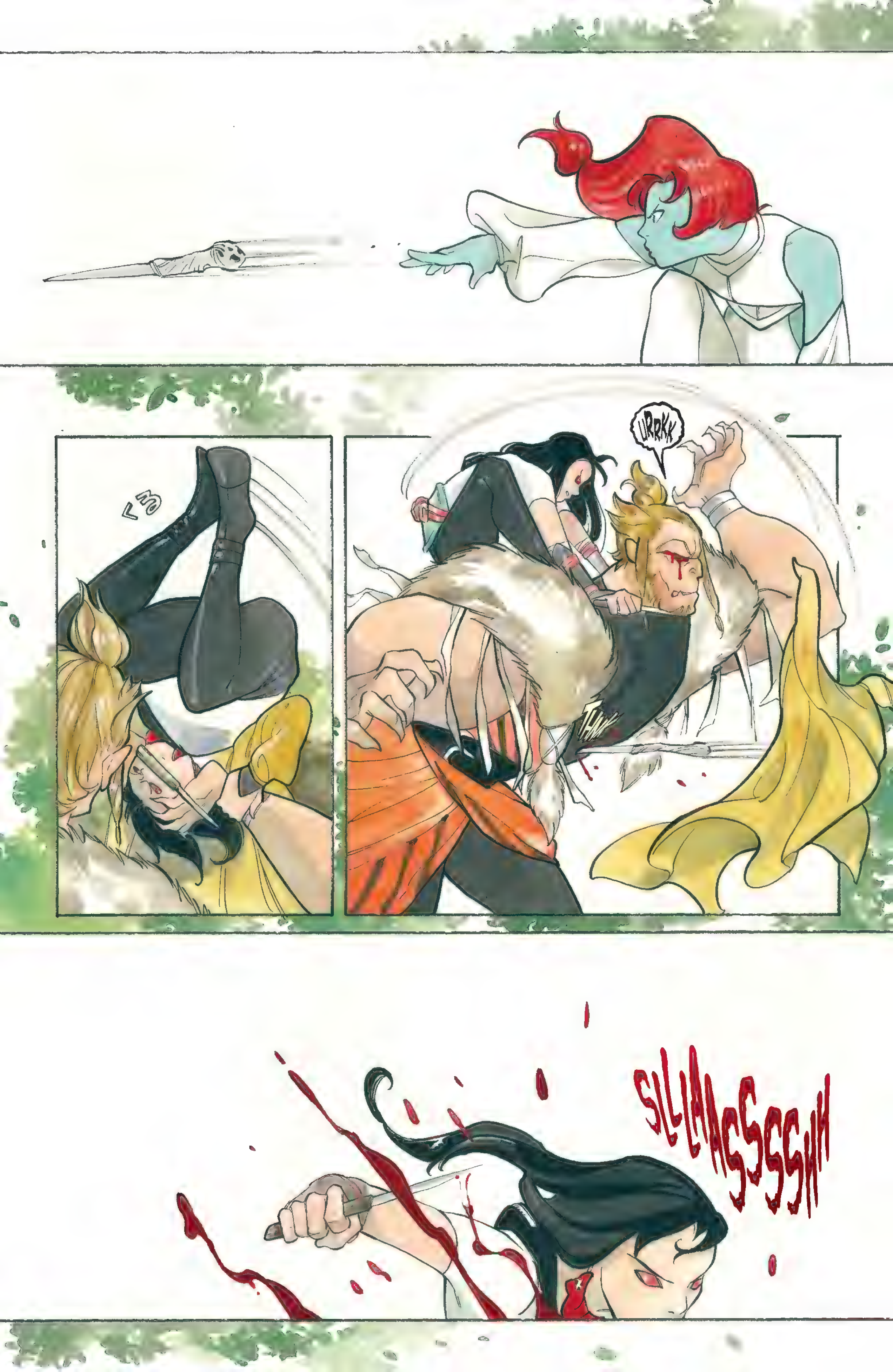

ONE SCRAWNY KID?
AIN'T WORTH MY TIME.
KKRRCHK
ENOUGH, TORAJI!
DON'T KILL HER.
OGIN WANTS HER ALIVE FOR SOME REASON.
BACK OFF, OCHO.
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

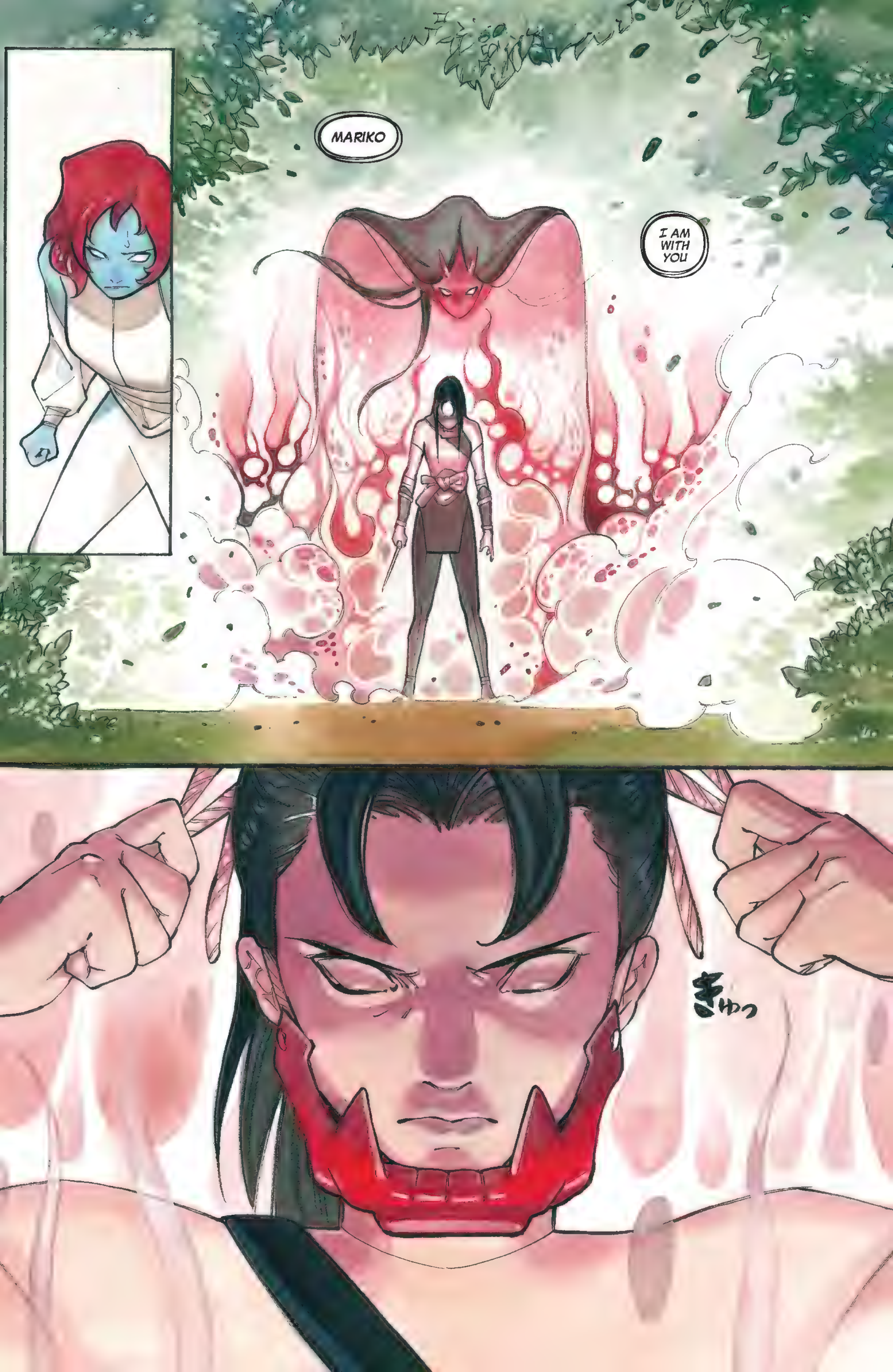

GRRRRAAAAARRRRRRRR
WHA...?!
RRRRRRRRRRRR
UNN...

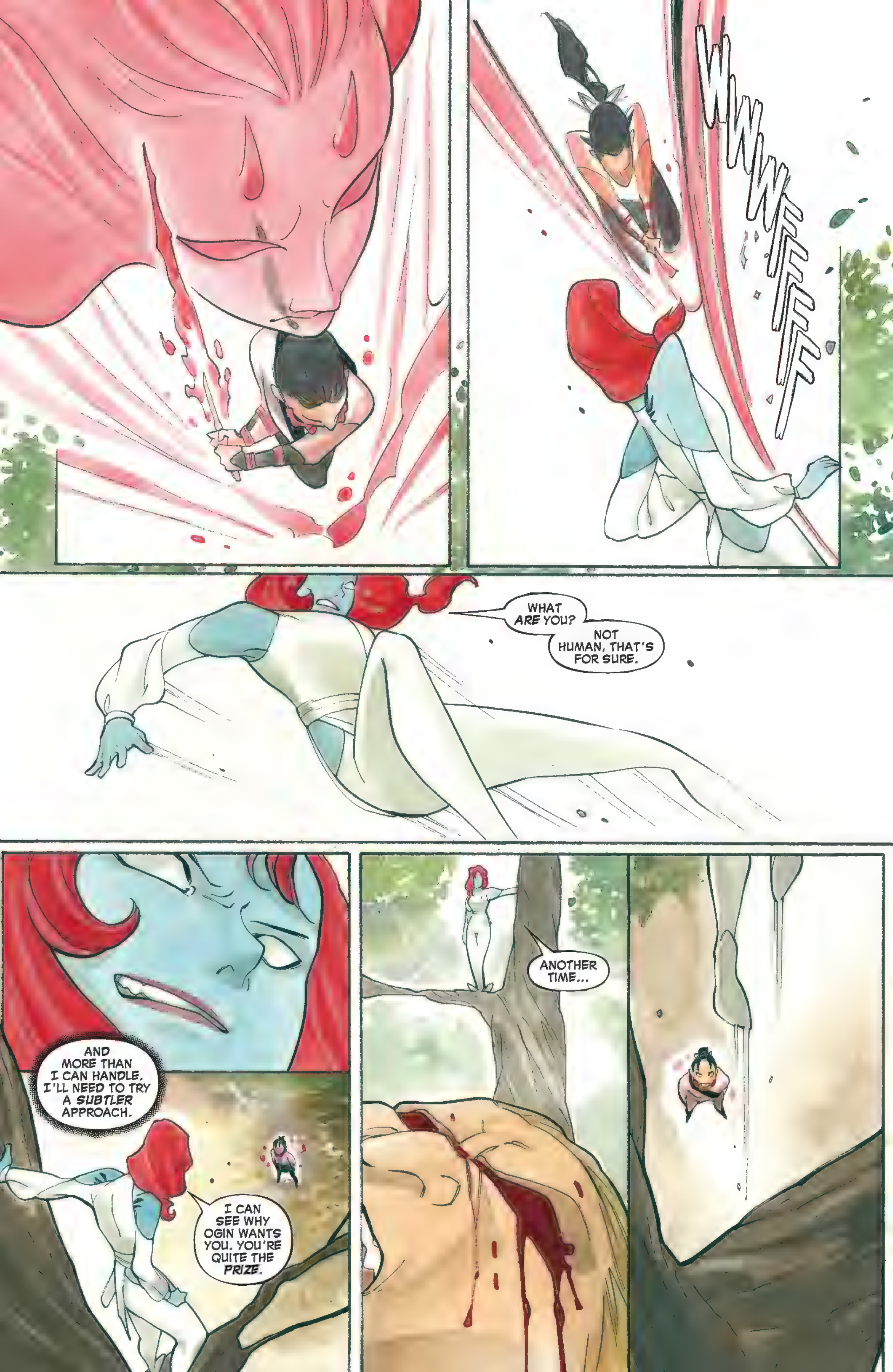

YOU WANNA PLAY ROUGH, HUH? I'LL SHOW YA--
STAND BACK, TORAJI. YOU'LL TEAR HER TO PIECES.
THIS REQUIRES FINESSE.
I REMEMBER...
S-SOMETHING'S HAPPENING.

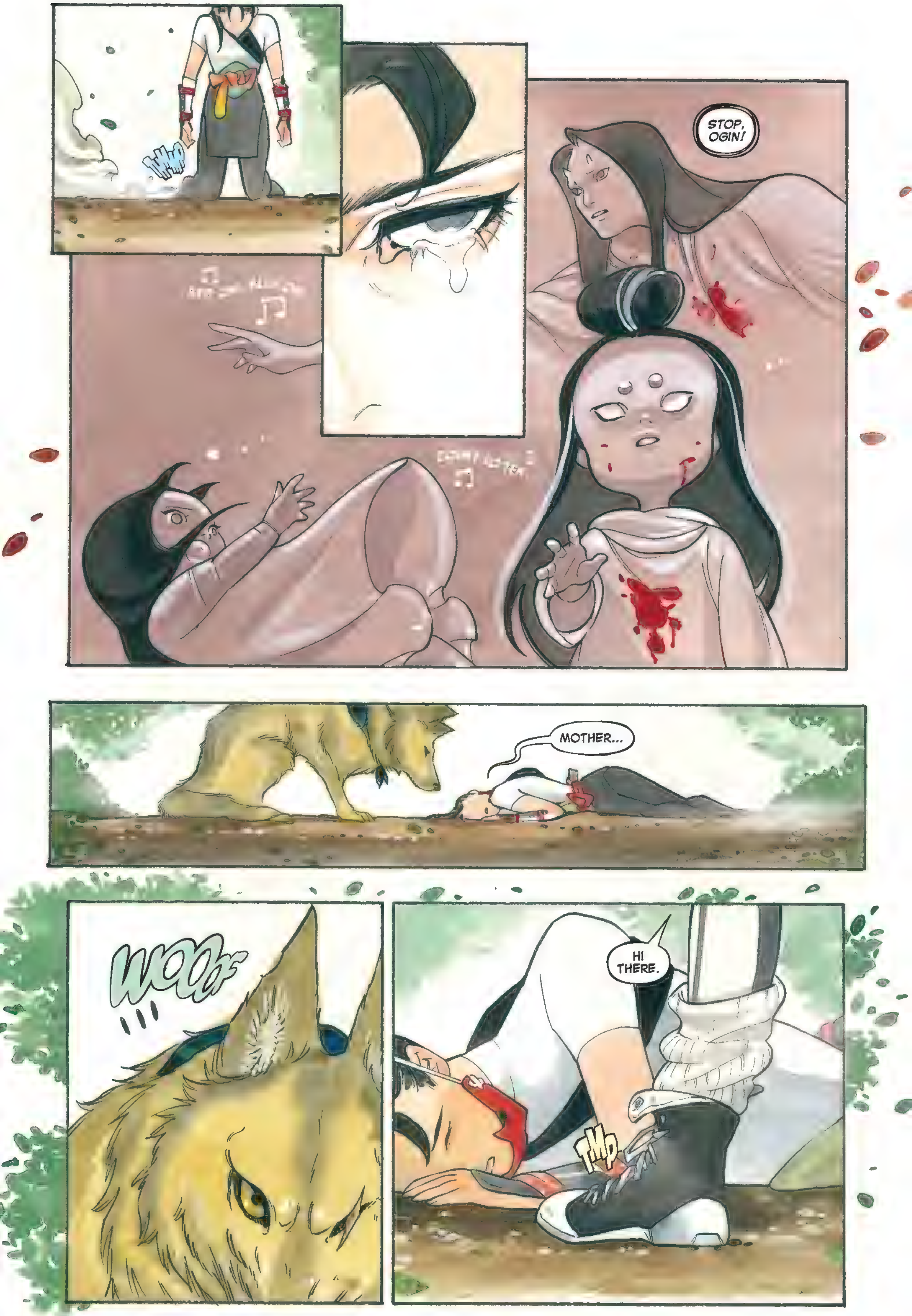

シュパ
FWSSSS
SPLURP
DAMN...

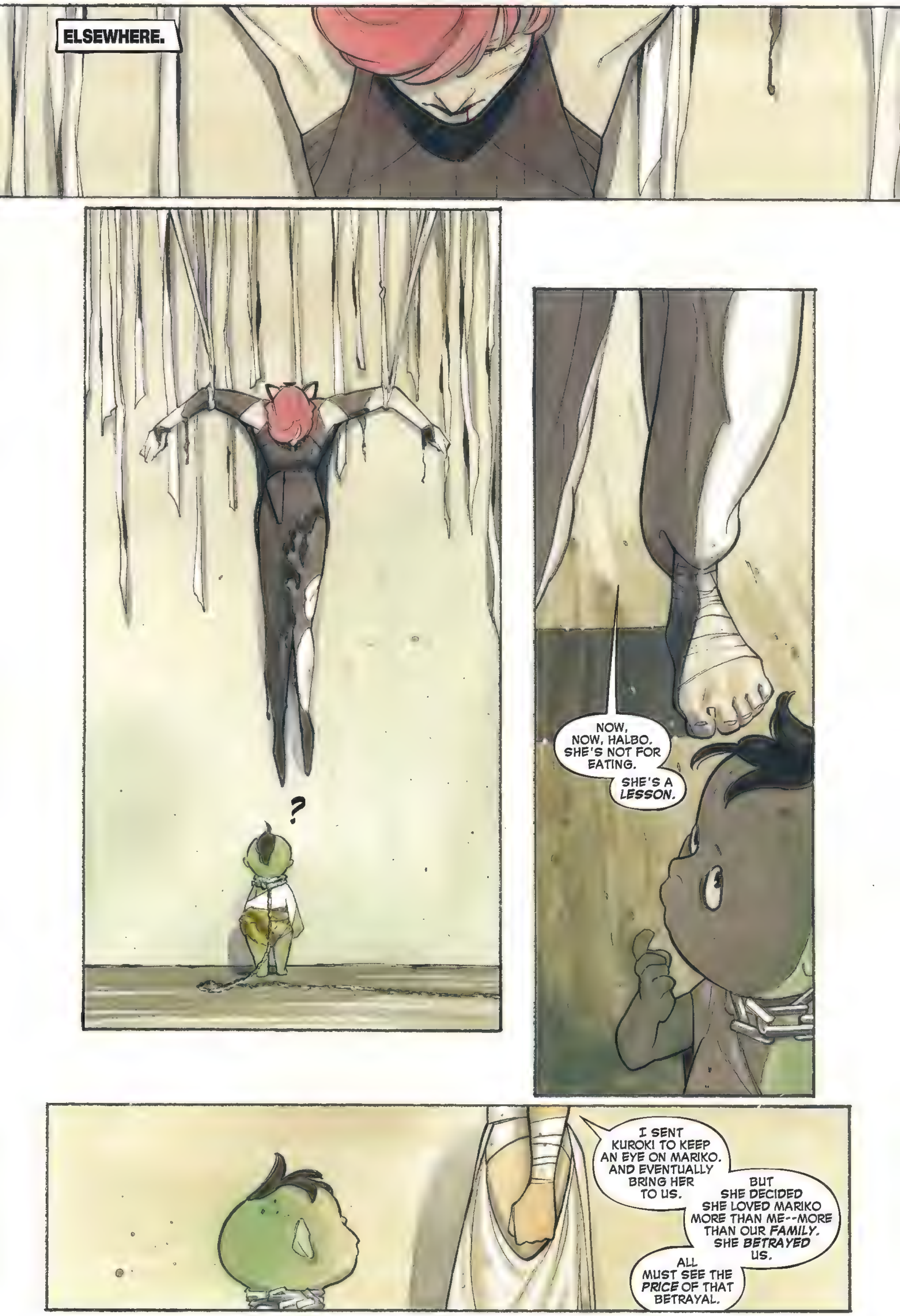

KYAAAAA!
KRRK
ガしっ
YER GONNA PAY FOR THAT.

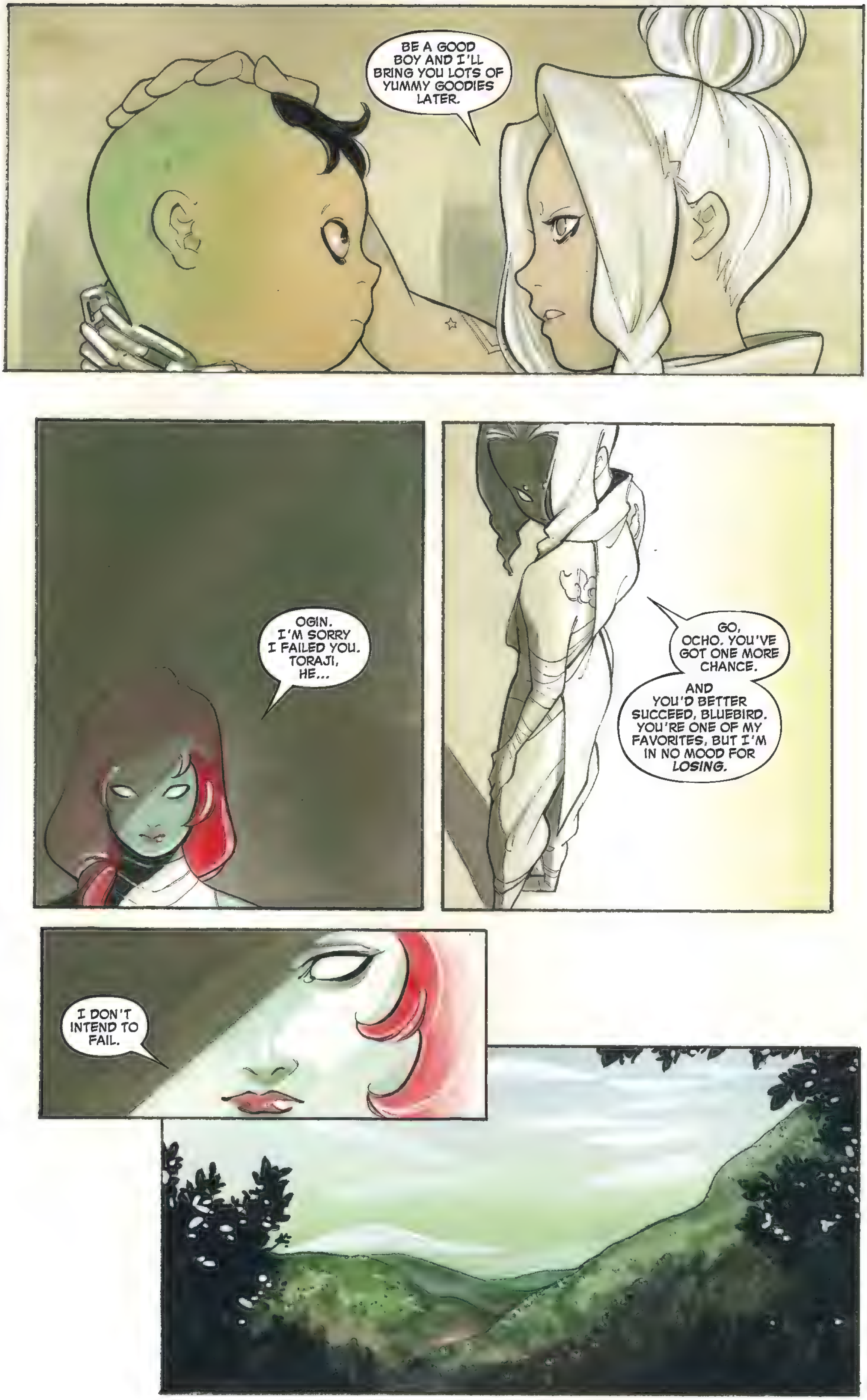

くる
URRKK
THNK
SLLLAASSSSHH

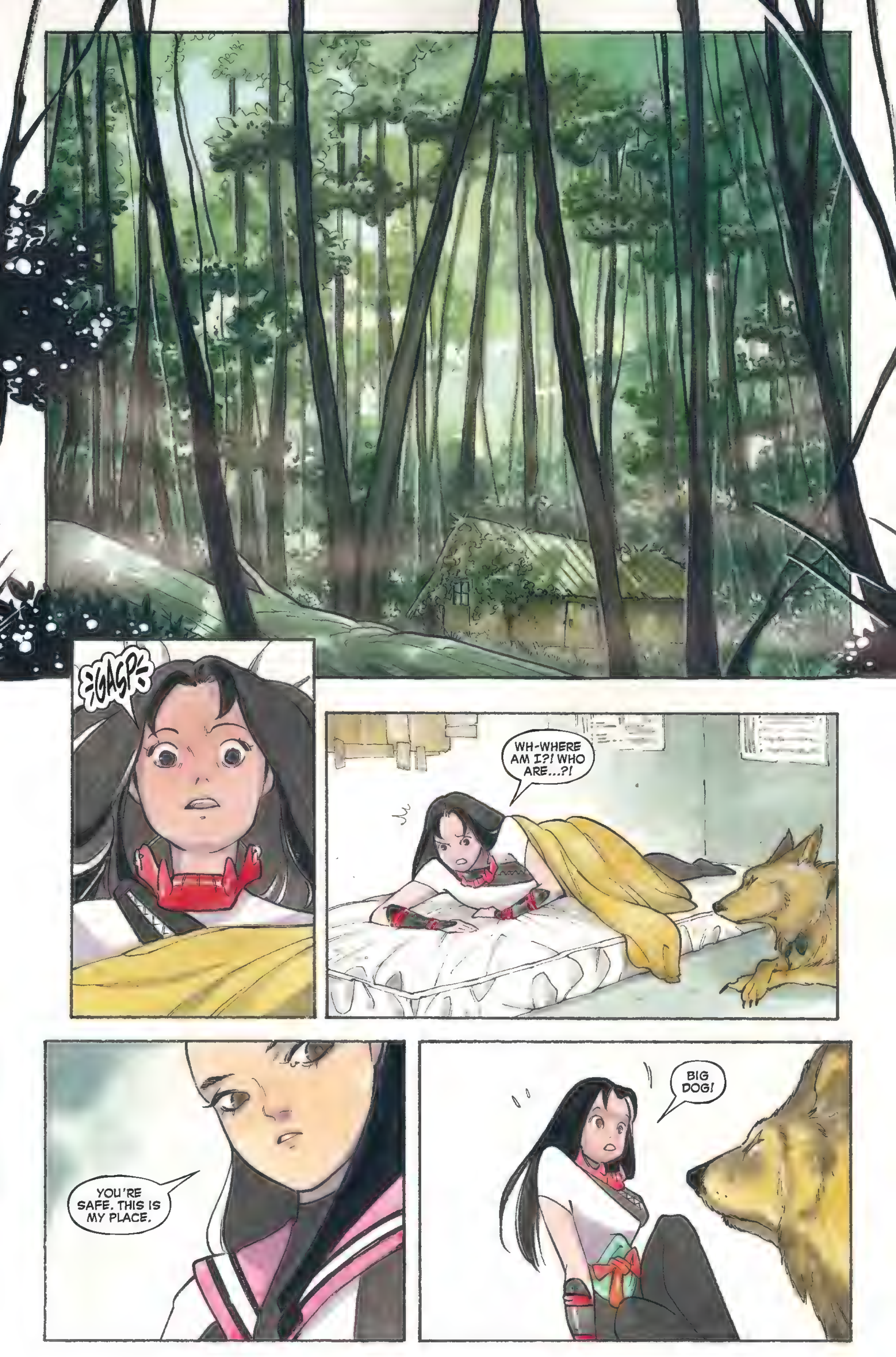

MARIKO
I AM WITH YOU
きゅっ

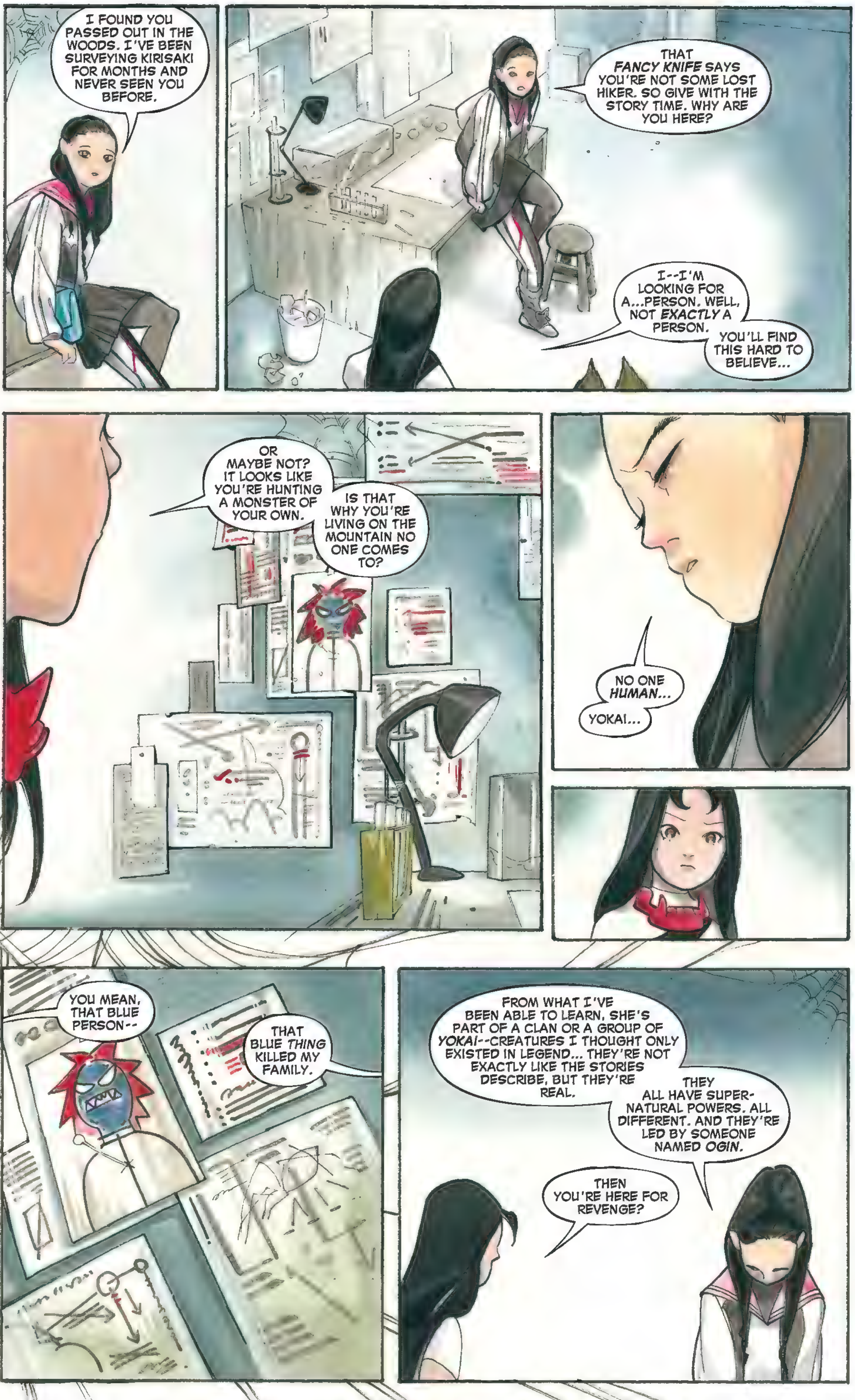

WWWFFFFF
WHAT ARE YOU?
NOT HUMAN, THAT'S FOR SURE.
AND MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE. I'LL NEED TO TRY A SUBTLER APPROACH.
I CAN SEE WHY OGIN WANTS YOU. YOU'RE QUITE THE PRIZE.
ANOTHER TIME...

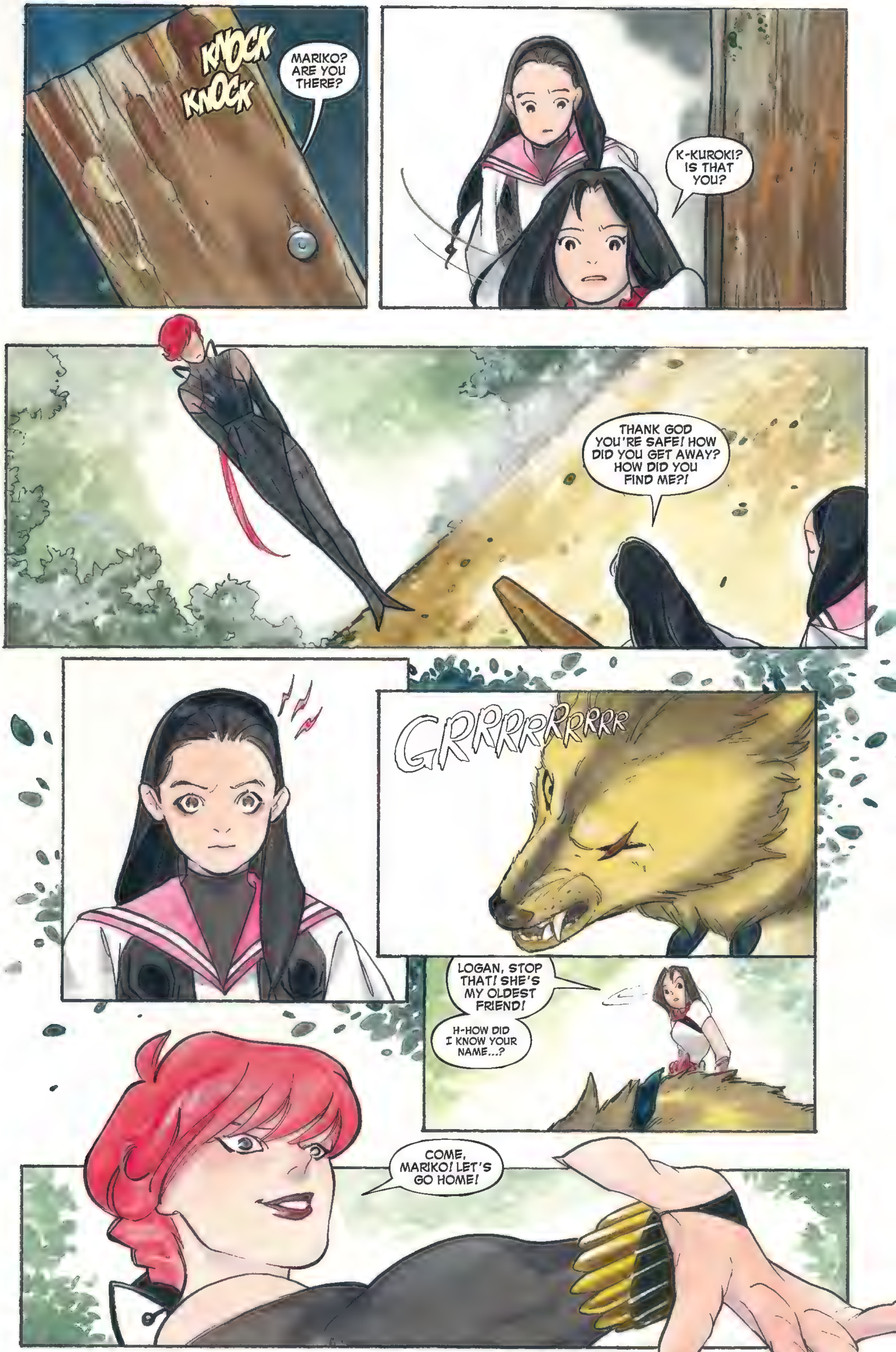

THMP
STOP, OGIN!
MOTHER...
WOOF
HI THERE.
TMP

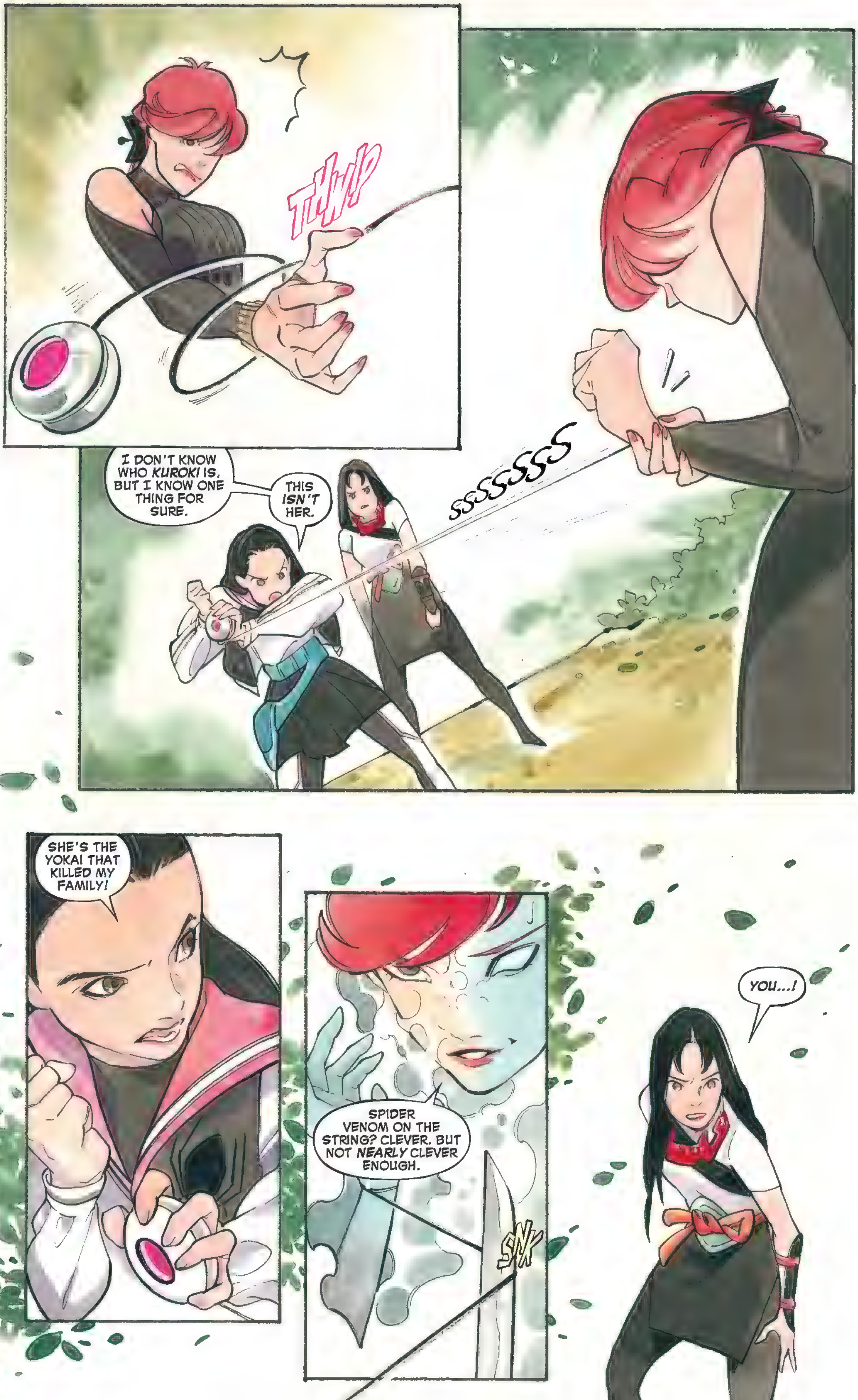

ELSEWHERE.
?
NOW, NOW, HALBO. SHE'S NOT FOR EATING.
SHE'S A *LESSON.*
I SENT KUROKI TO KEEP AN EYE ON MARIKO. AND EVENTUALLY BRING HER TO US.
BUT SHE DECIDED SHE LOVED MARIKO MORE THAN ME--MORE THAN OUR *FAMILY.* SHE *BETRAYED* US.
ALL MUST SEE THE *PRICE* OF THAT BETRAYAL.

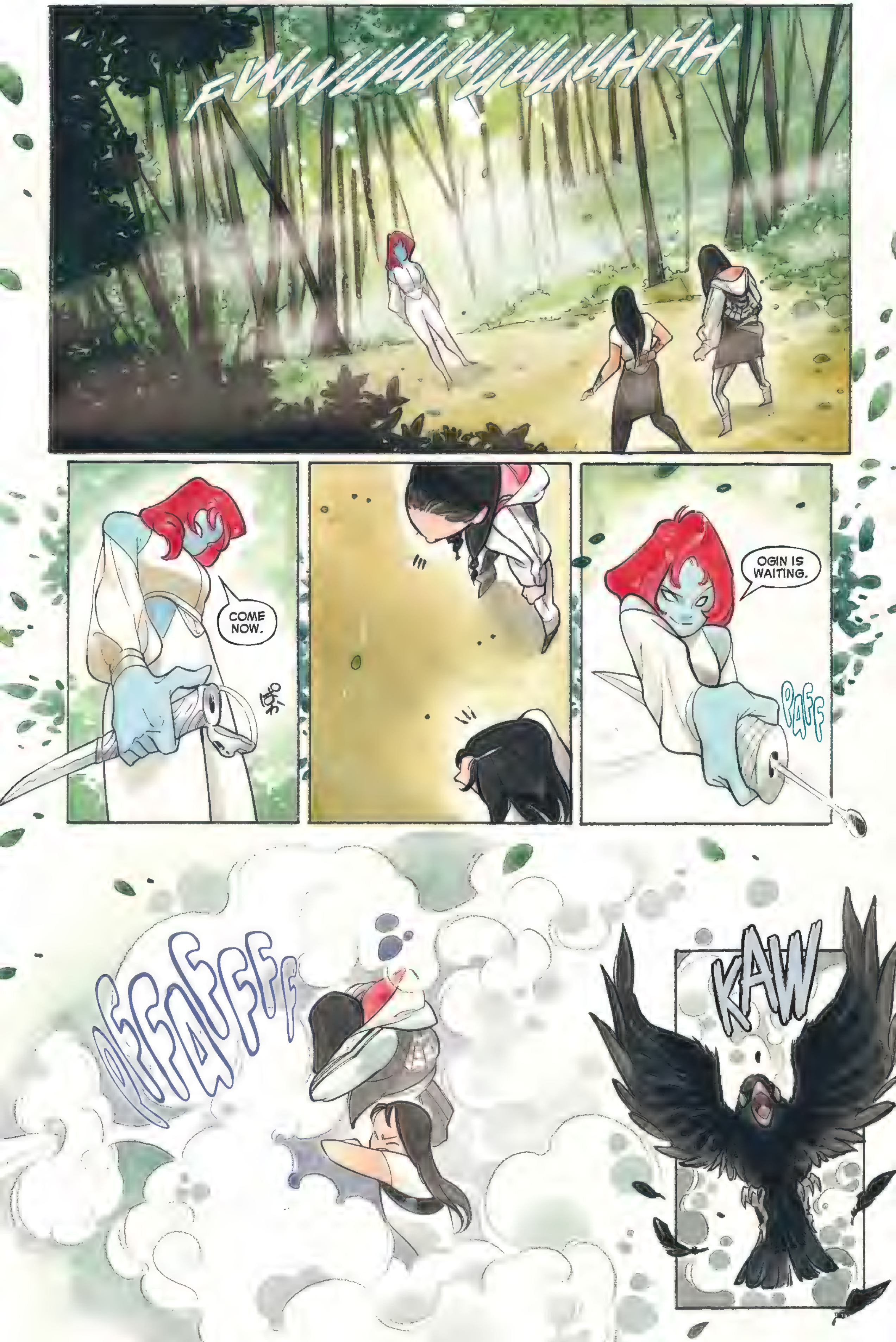

BE A GOOD BOY AND I'LL BRING YOU LOTS OF YUMMY GOODIES LATER.
OGIN. I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU. TORAJI, HE...
GO, OCHO. YOU'VE GOT ONE MORE CHANCE.
AND YOU'D BETTER SUCCEED, BLUEBIRD. YOU'RE ONE OF MY FAVORITES, BUT I'M IN NO MOOD FOR *LOSING.*
I DON'T INTEND TO FAIL.

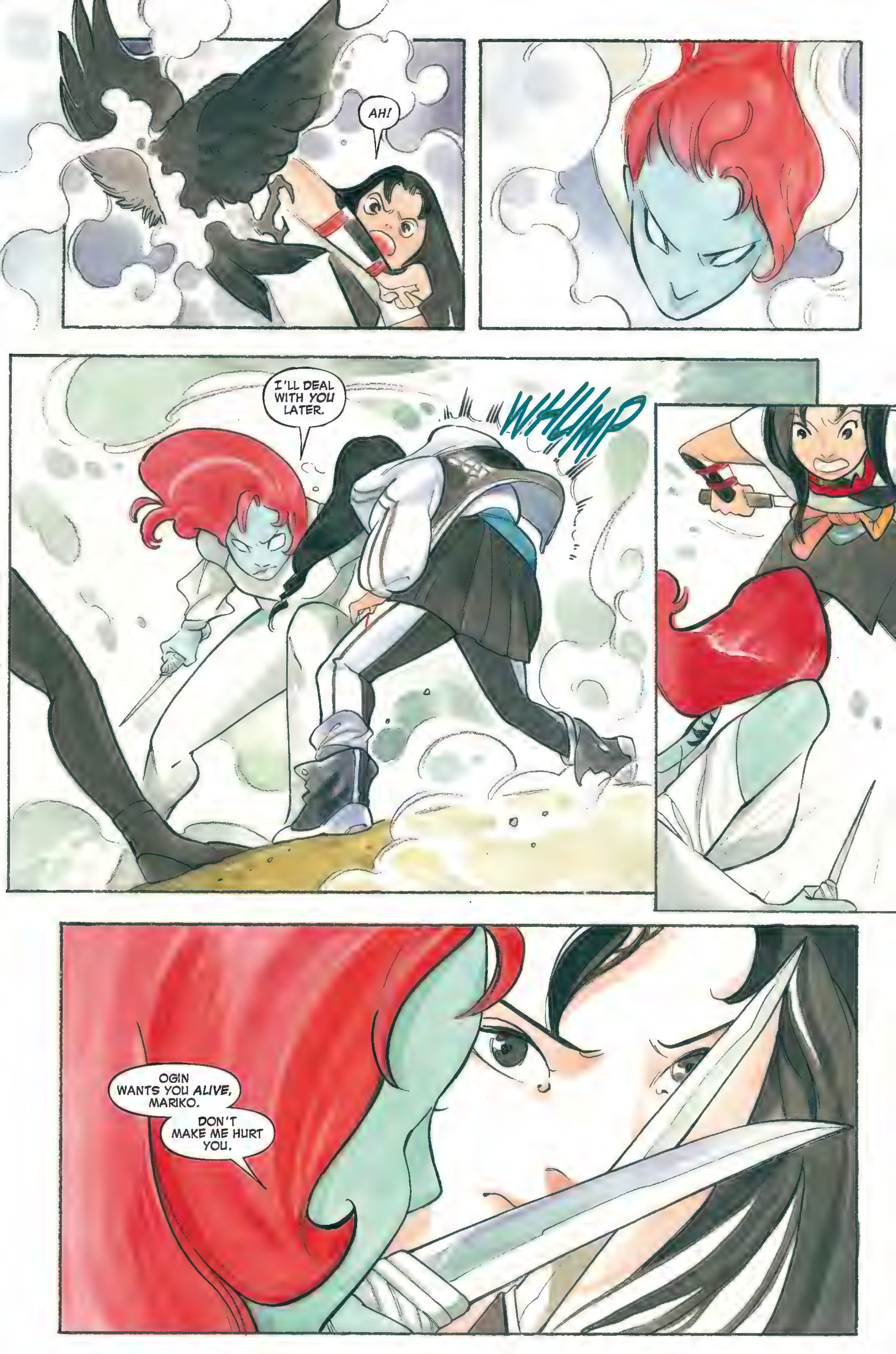

GASP
WH-WHERE AM I?! WHO ARE...?!
YOU'RE SAFE. THIS IS MY PLACE.
BIG DOG!

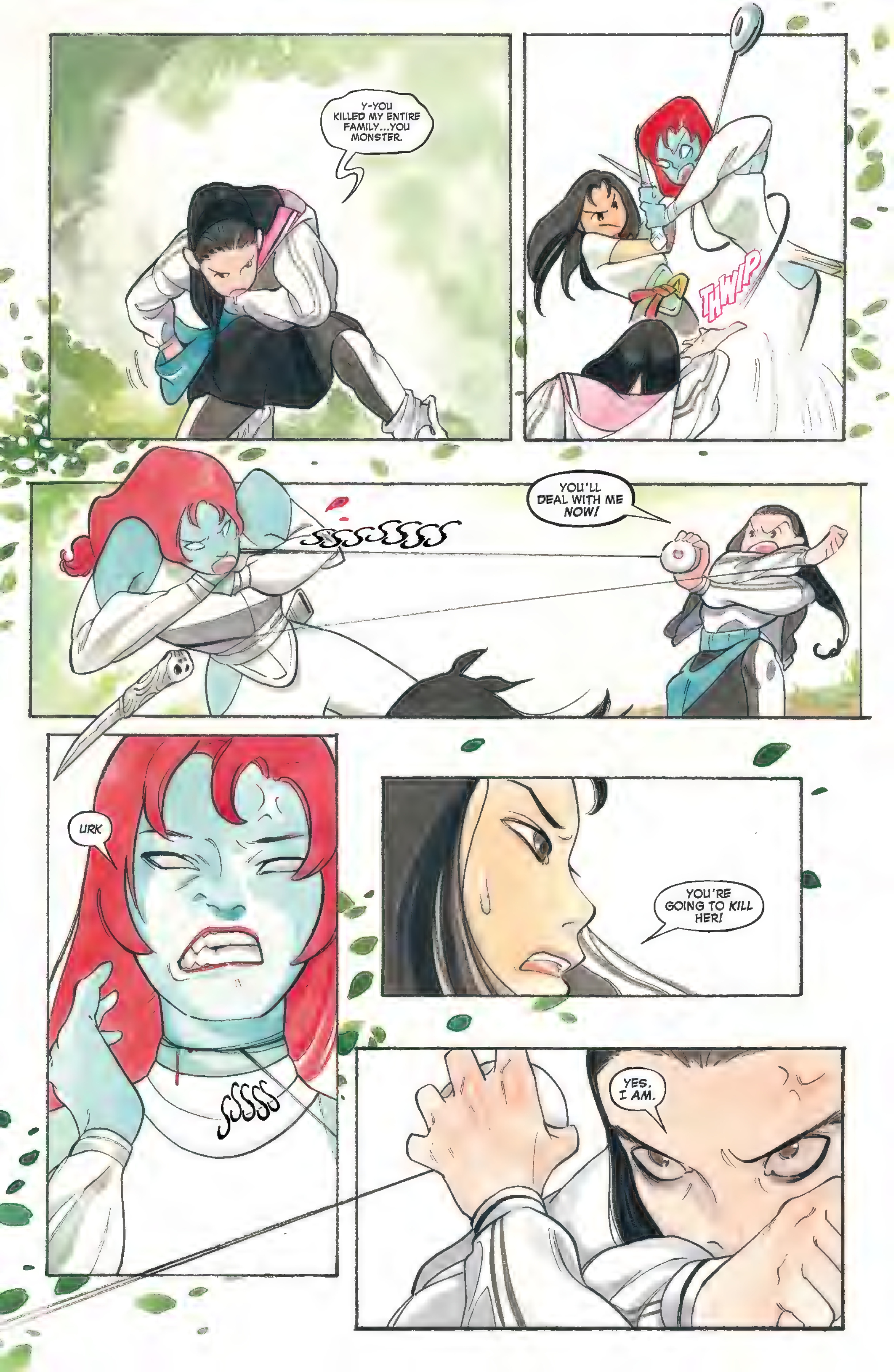

I FOUND YOU PASSED OUT IN THE WOODS. I'VE BEEN SURVEYING KIRISAKI FOR MONTHS AND NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.
THAT *FANCY KNIFE* SAYS YOU'RE NOT SOME LOST HIKER. SO GIVE WITH THE STORY TIME. WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I--I'M LOOKING FOR A...PERSON. WELL, NOT *EXACTLY* A PERSON.
YOU'LL FIND THIS HARD TO BELIEVE...
OR MAYBE NOT? IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HUNTING A MONSTER OF YOUR OWN.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE LIVING ON THE MOUNTAIN NO ONE COMES TO?
NO ONE *HUMAN*...
YOKAI...
YOU MEAN, THAT BLUE PERSON--
THAT BLUE *THING* KILLED MY FAMILY.
FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN, SHE'S PART OF A CLAN OR A GROUP OF *YOKAI*--CREATURES I THOUGHT ONLY EXISTED IN LEGEND... THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY LIKE THE STORIES DESCRIBE, BUT THEY'RE REAL.
THEY ALL HAVE SUPERNATURAL POWERS. ALL DIFFERENT. AND THEY'RE LED BY SOMEONE NAMED *OGIN*.
THEN YOU'RE HERE FOR REVENGE?

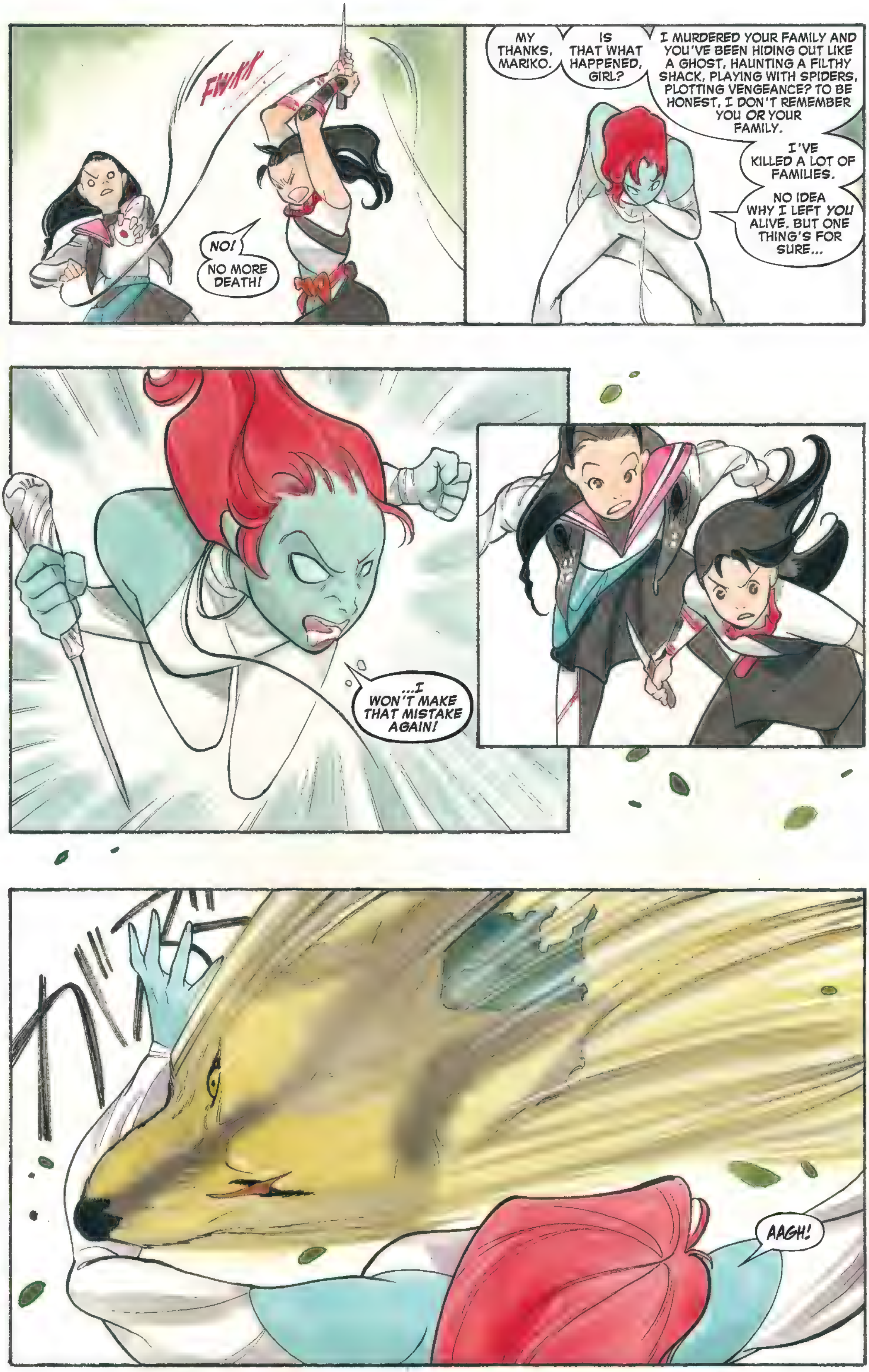

KNOCK KNOCK
MARIKO? ARE YOU THERE?
K-KUROKI? IS THAT YOU?
THANK GOD YOU'RE SAFE! HOW DID YOU GET AWAY? HOW DID YOU FIND ME?!
GRRRRRRRRR
LOGAN, STOP THAT! SHE'S MY OLDEST FRIEND!
H-HOW DID I KNOW YOUR NAME...?
COME, MARIKO! LET'S GO HOME!

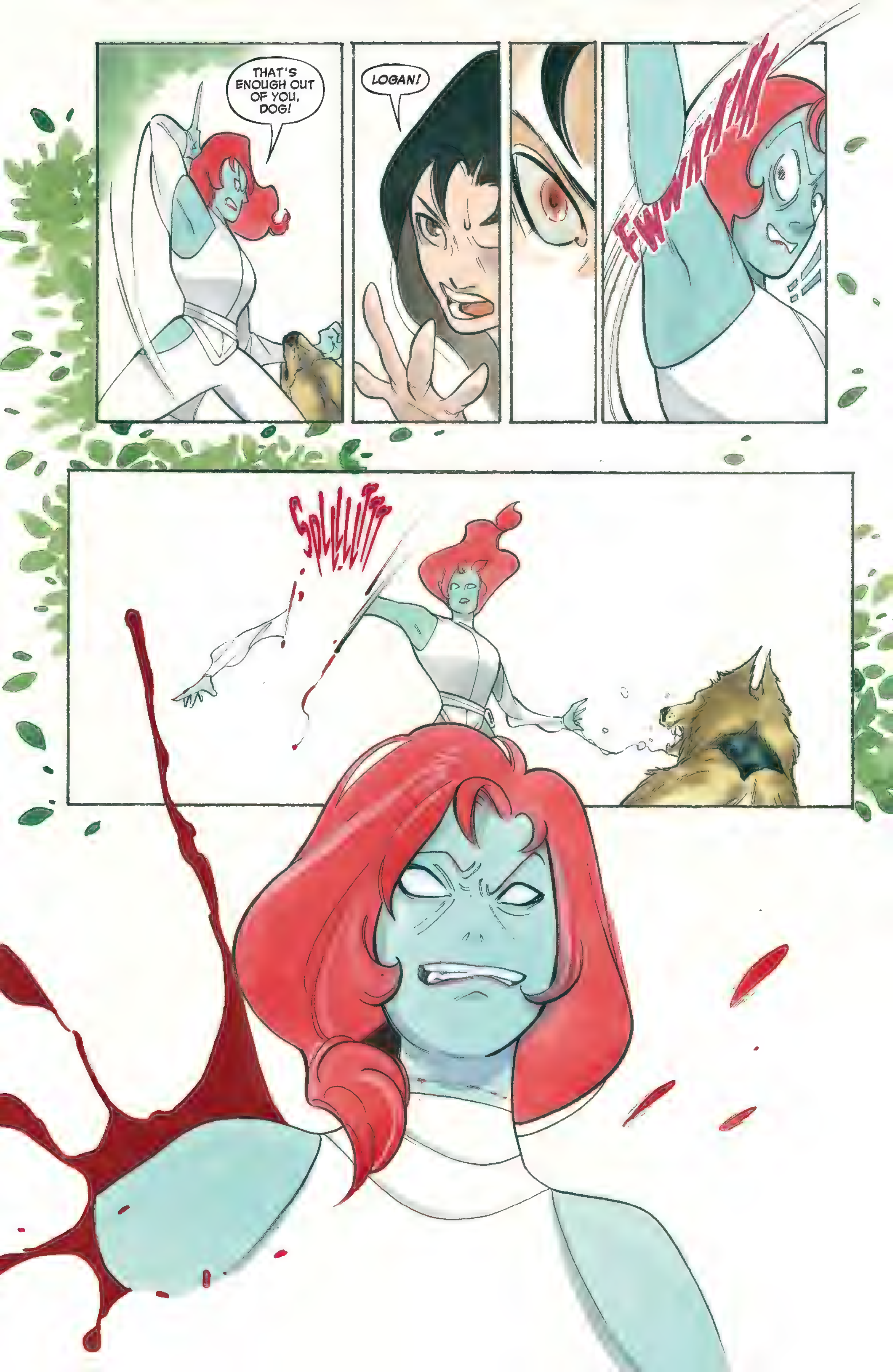

THWIP
I DON'T KNOW WHO *KUROKI* IS, BUT I KNOW ONE THING FOR SURE.
THIS *ISN'T* HER.
SSSSSSSS
SHE'S THE YOKAI THAT KILLED MY FAMILY!
SPIDER VENOM ON THE STRING? CLEVER. BUT NOT *NEARLY* CLEVER ENOUGH.
SNK
YOU...!

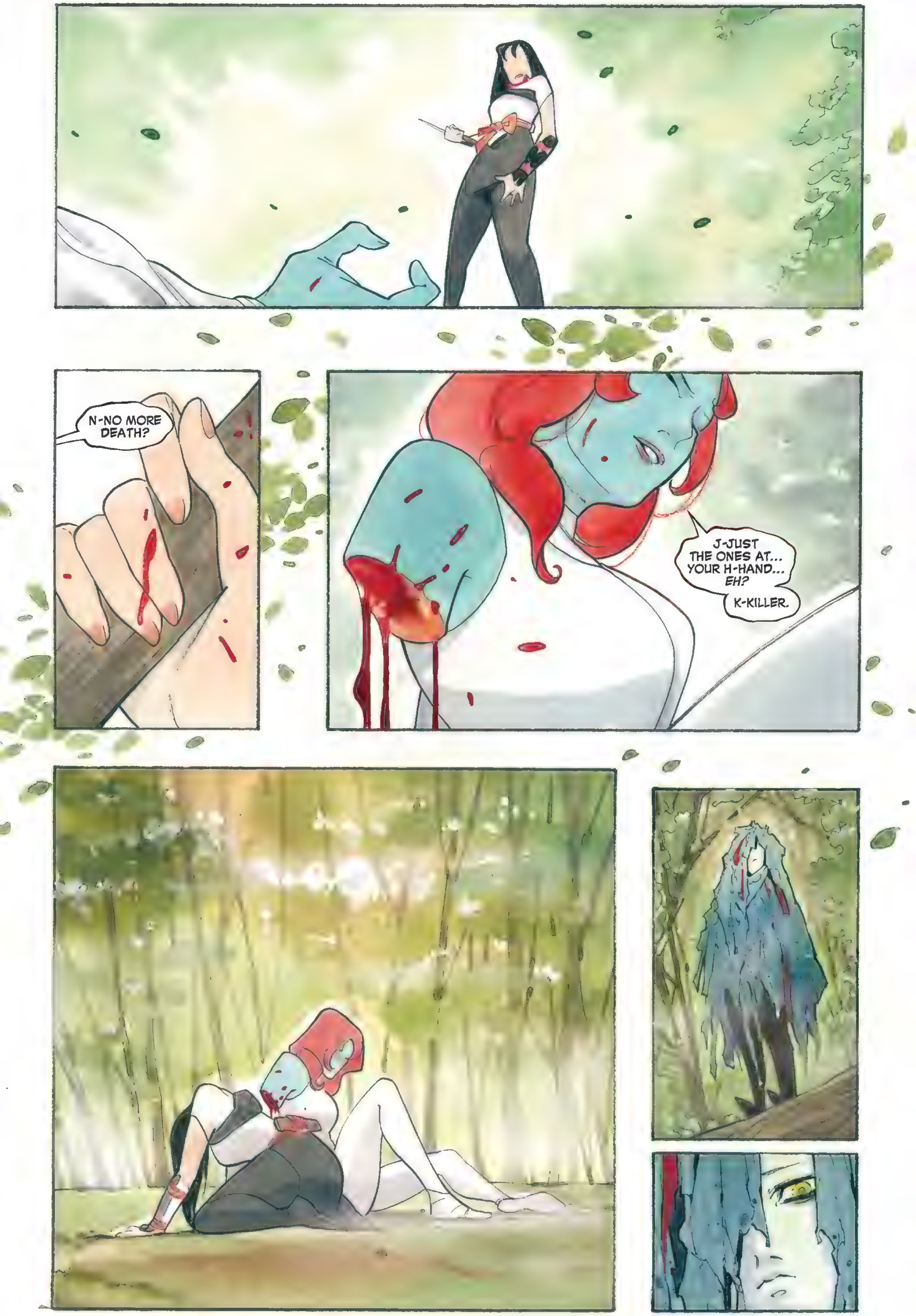

FWWUUUUUUUUUUHHH
COME NOW.
OGIN IS WAITING.
PAFF
PFFFAFFFF
KAW

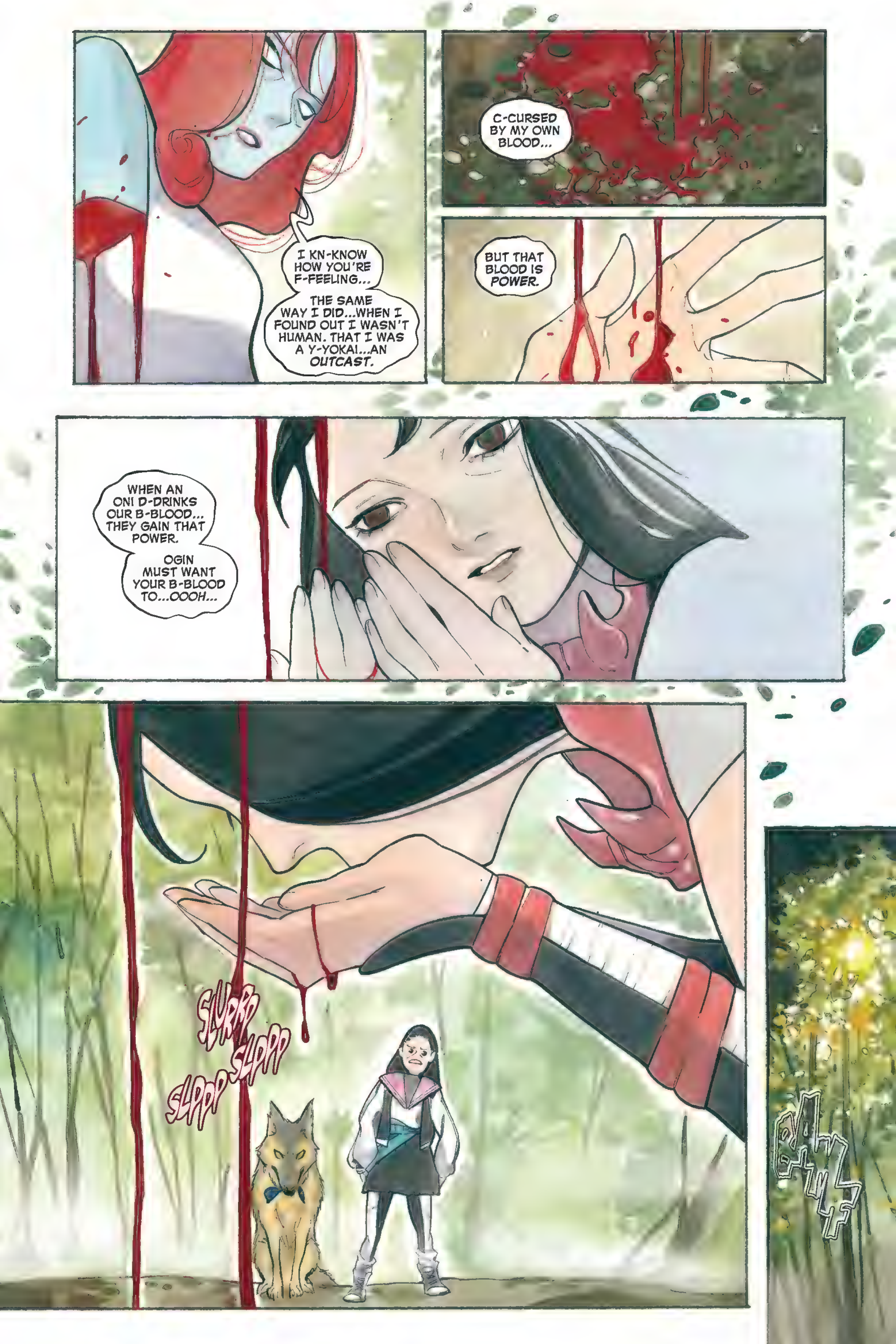

AH!
I'LL DEAL WITH *YOU* LATER.
WHUMP
OGIN WANTS YOU *ALIVE*, MARIKO.
DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU.

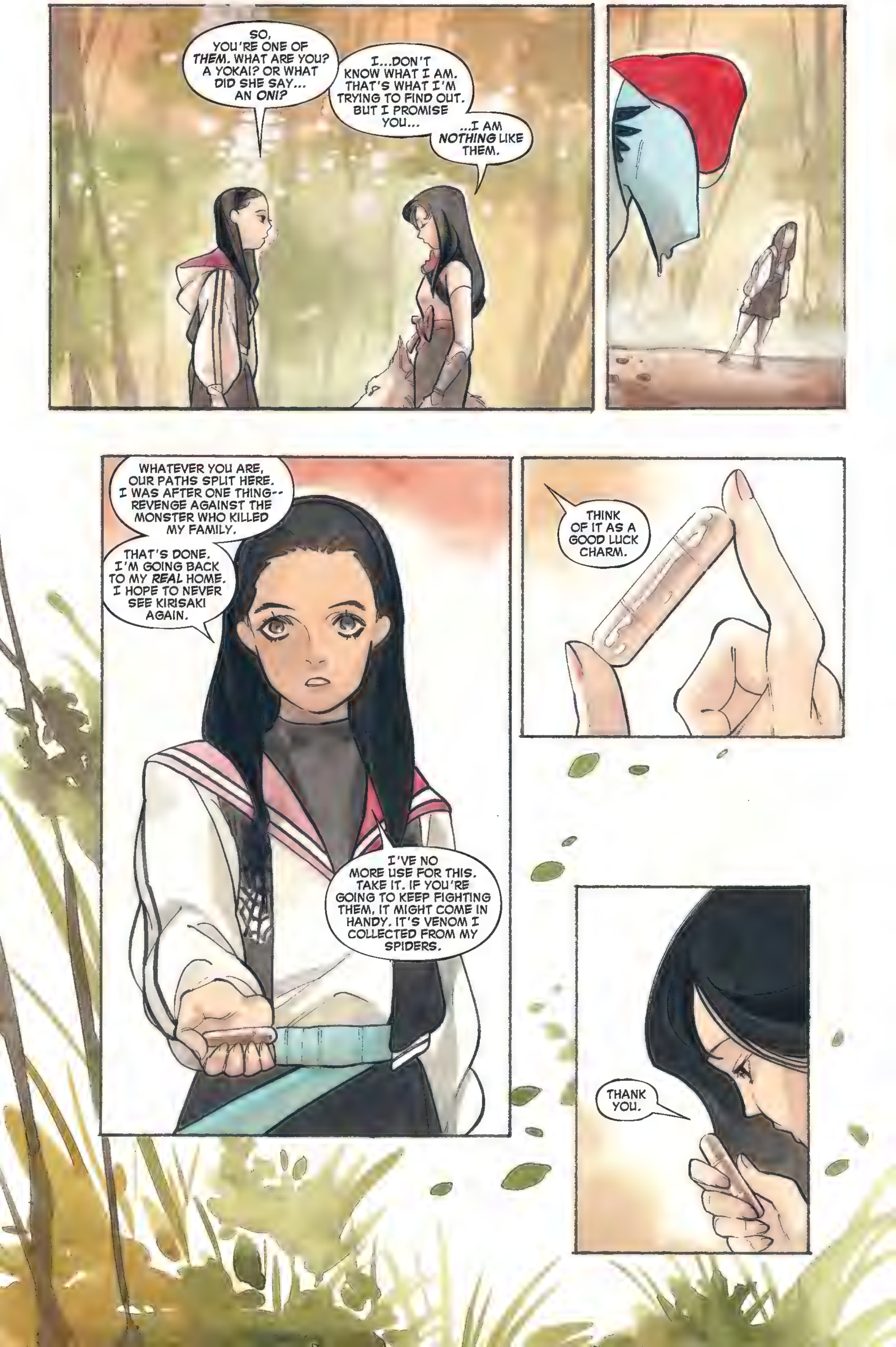

Y-YOU KILLED MY ENTIRE FAMILY...YOU MONSTER.
THWIP
SSSSSSSS
YOU'LL DEAL WITH ME NOW!
URK
SSSSS
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HER!
YES. I AM.

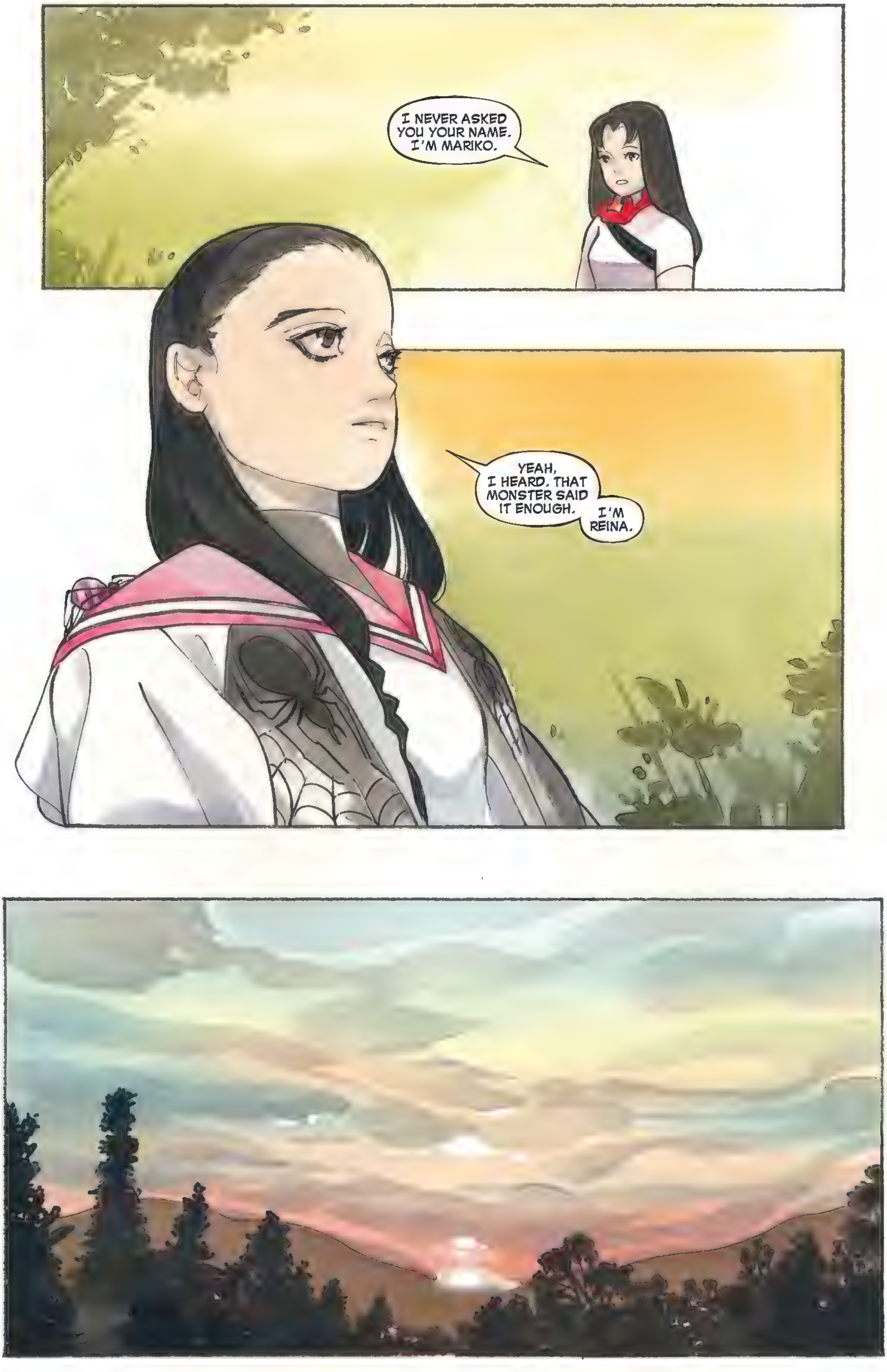

FWIP
NO!
NO MORE DEATH!
MY THANKS, MARIKO.
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED, GIRL?
I MURDERED YOUR FAMILY AND YOU'VE BEEN HIDING OUT LIKE A GHOST, HAUNTING A FILTHY SHACK, PLAYING WITH SPIDERS, PLOTTING VENGEANCE? TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REMEMBER YOU OR YOUR FAMILY.
I'VE KILLED A LOT OF FAMILIES.
NO IDEA WHY I LEFT YOU ALIVE. BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE...
...I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN!
AAGH!

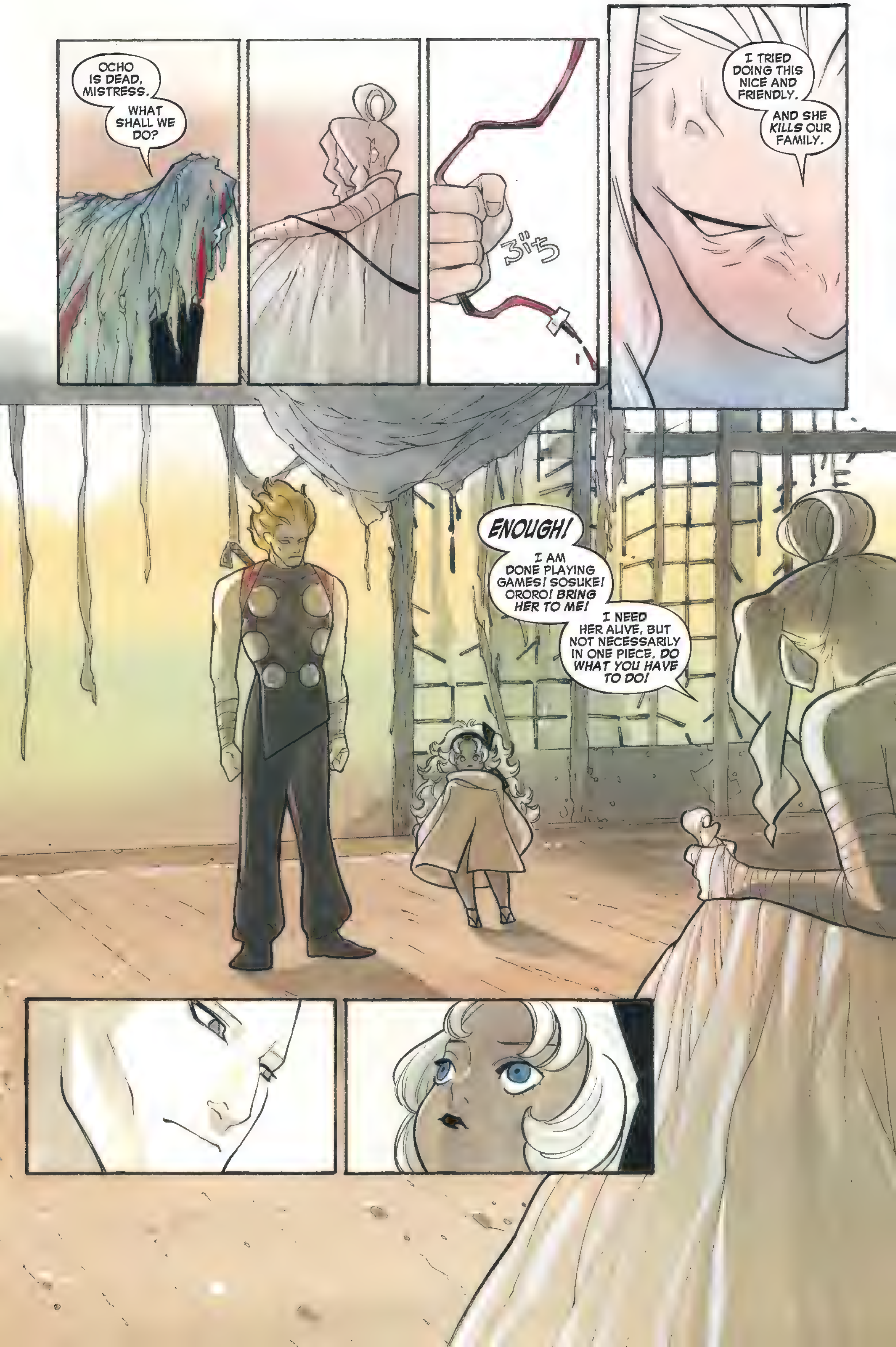

THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, DOG!
LOGAN!
FWWMMMM
SPLLLLTTT

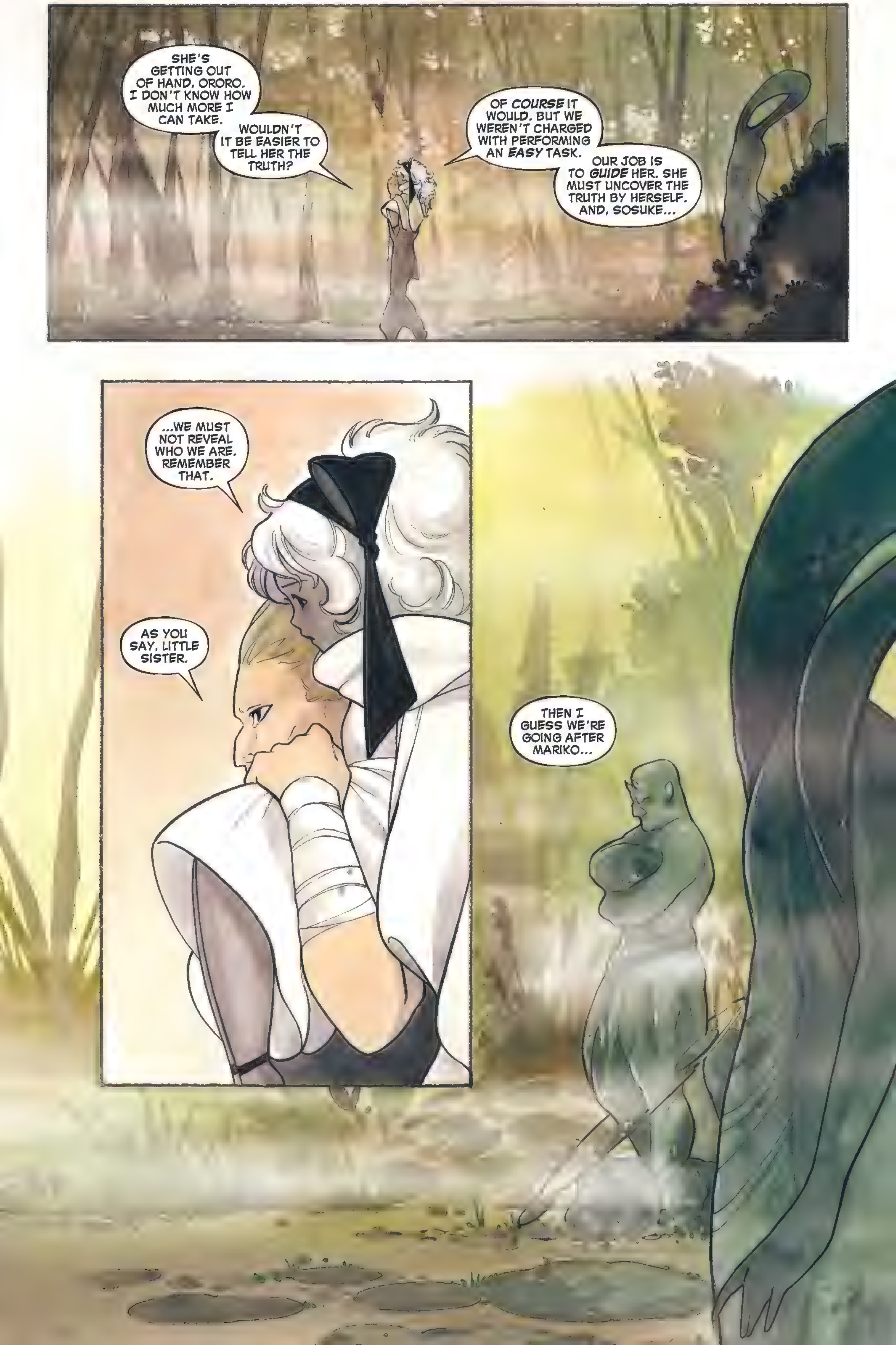

N-NO MORE DEATH?
J-JUST THE ONES AT... YOUR H-HAND... EH?
K-KILLER.

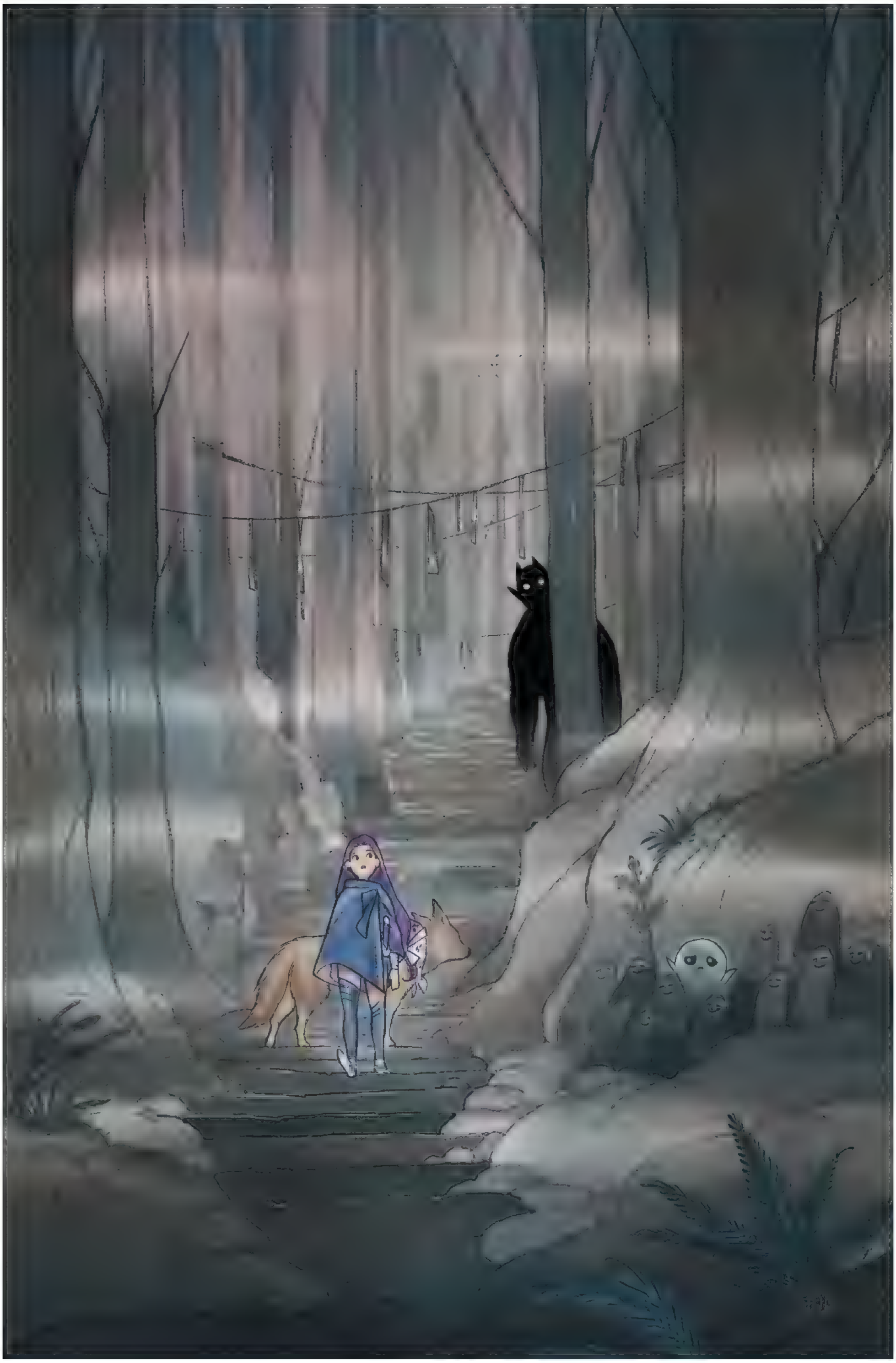

I KN-KNOW HOW YOU'RE F-FEELING...
THE SAME WAY I DID...WHEN I FOUND OUT I WASN'T HUMAN. THAT I WAS A Y-YOKAI...AN *OUTCAST.*
C-CURSED BY MY OWN BLOOD...
BUT THAT BLOOD IS *POWER.*
WHEN AN ONI D-DRINKS OUR B-BLOOD... THEY GAIN THAT POWER.
OGIN MUST WANT YOUR B-BLOOD TO...OOOH...
SLURRP
SLPPP
SLPPP


SO, YOU'RE ONE OF *THEM*. WHAT ARE YOU? A YOKAI? OR WHAT DID SHE SAY... AN *ONI?*
I...DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM. THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT. BUT I PROMISE YOU...
...I AM *NOTHING* LIKE THEM.
WHATEVER YOU ARE, OUR PATHS SPLIT HERE. I WAS AFTER ONE THING--REVENGE AGAINST THE MONSTER WHO KILLED MY FAMILY.
THAT'S DONE. I'M GOING BACK TO MY *REAL* HOME. I HOPE TO NEVER SEE KIRISAKI AGAIN.
I'VE NO MORE USE FOR THIS. TAKE IT. IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP FIGHTING THEM, IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY. IT'S VENOM I COLLECTED FROM MY SPIDERS.
THINK OF IT AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
THANK YOU.


I NEVER ASKED YOU YOUR NAME. I'M MARIKO.
YEAH, I HEARD. THAT MONSTER SAID IT ENOUGH.
I'M REINA.

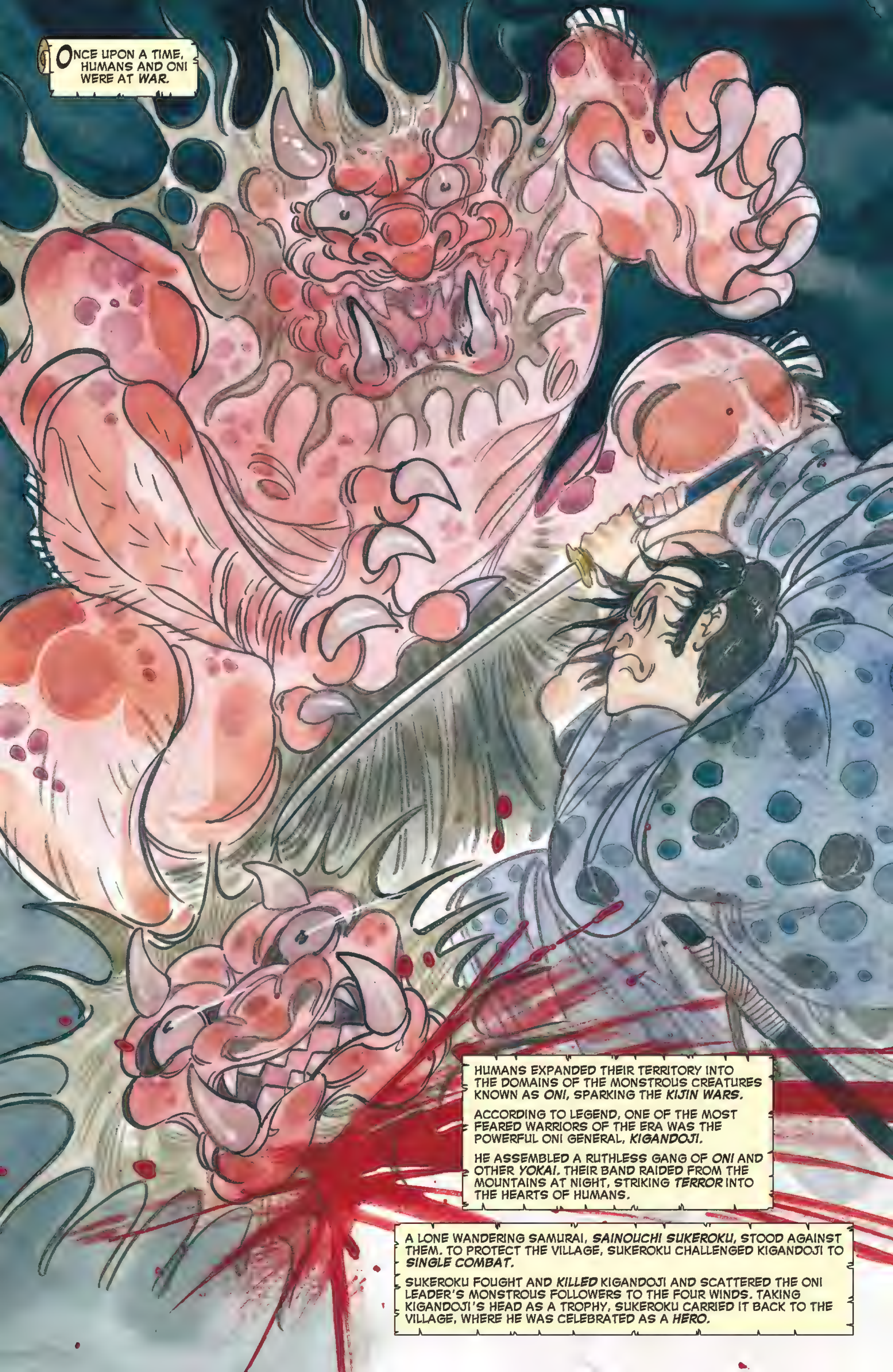

OCHO IS DEAD, MISTRESS.
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
I TRIED DOING THIS NICE AND FRIENDLY.
AND SHE *KILLS* OUR FAMILY.
ENOUGH!
I AM DONE PLAYING GAMES! SOSUKE! ORORO! *BRING HER TO ME!*
I NEED HER ALIVE, BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN ONE PIECE. *DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!*

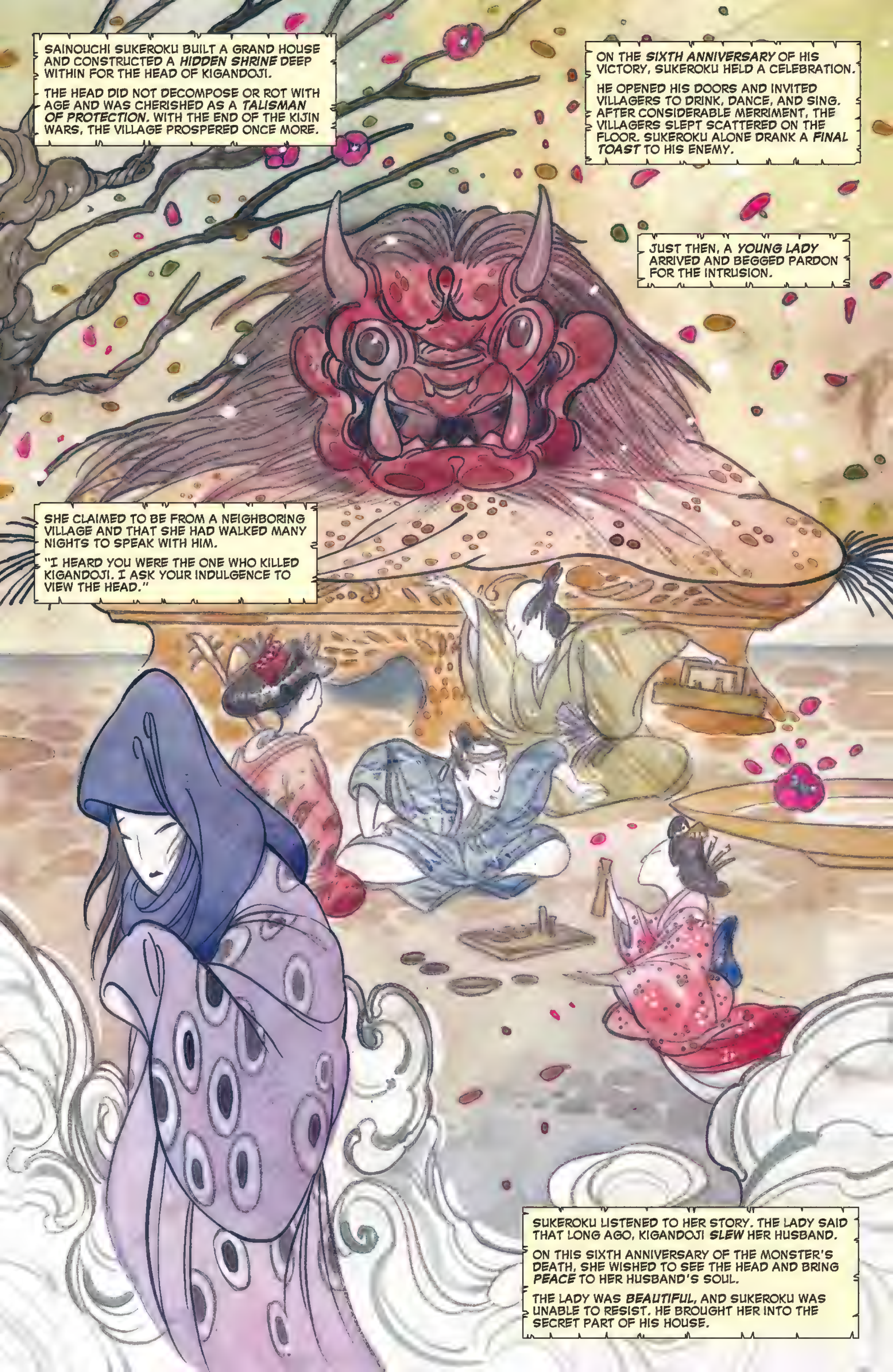

SHE'S GETTING OUT OF HAND, ORORO. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE I CAN TAKE.
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO TELL HER THE TRUTH?
OF *COURSE* IT WOULD. BUT WE WEREN'T CHARGED WITH PERFORMING AN *EASY* TASK.
OUR JOB IS TO *GUIDE* HER. SHE MUST UNCOVER THE TRUTH BY HERSELF. AND, SOSUKE...
...WE MUST NOT REVEAL WHO WE ARE. REMEMBER THAT.
AS YOU SAY, LITTLE SISTER.
THEN I GUESS WE'RE GOING AFTER MARIKO...

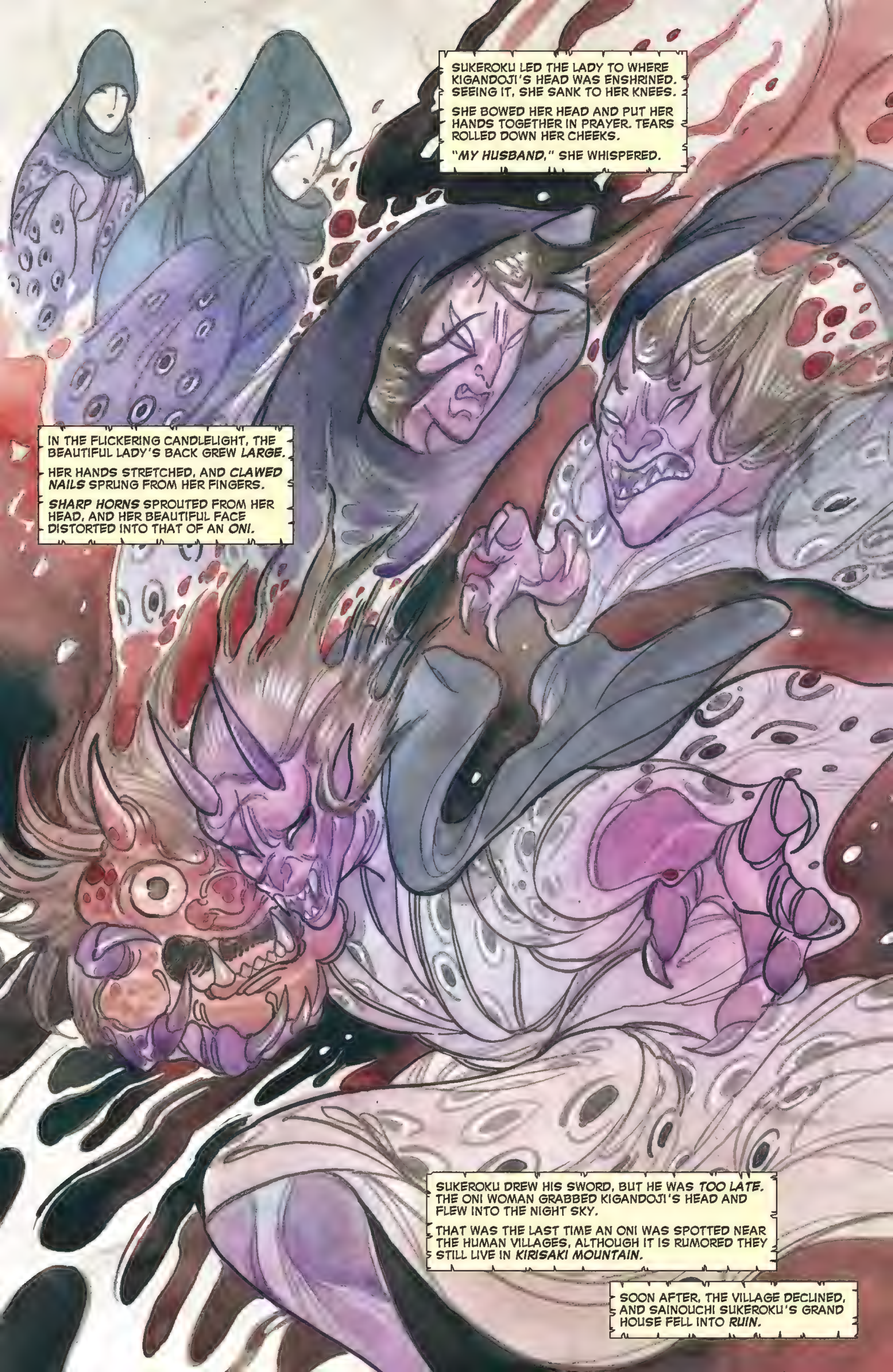


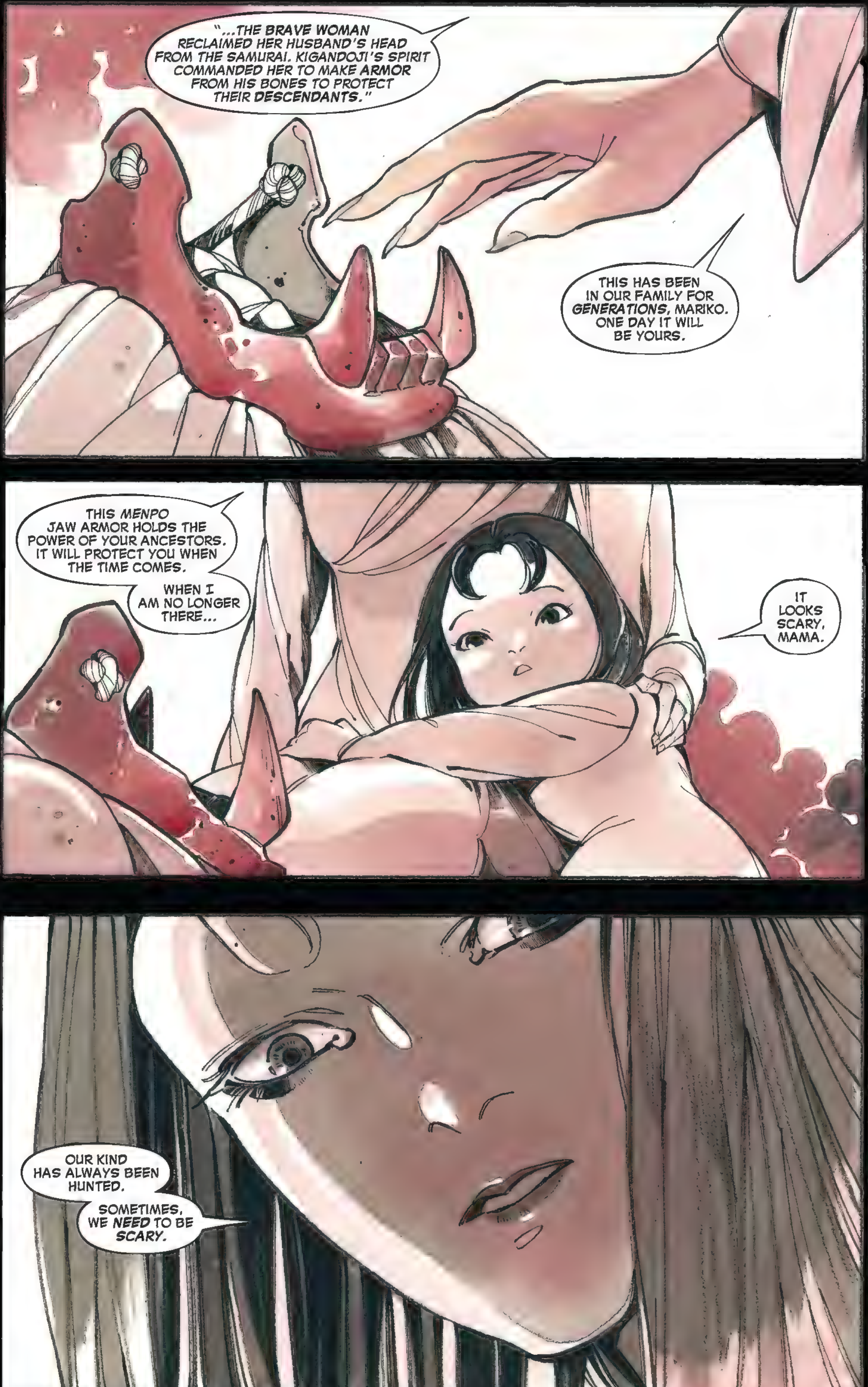
Demon Days: X-Men Creator's Cut cover by **PEACH MOMOKO**

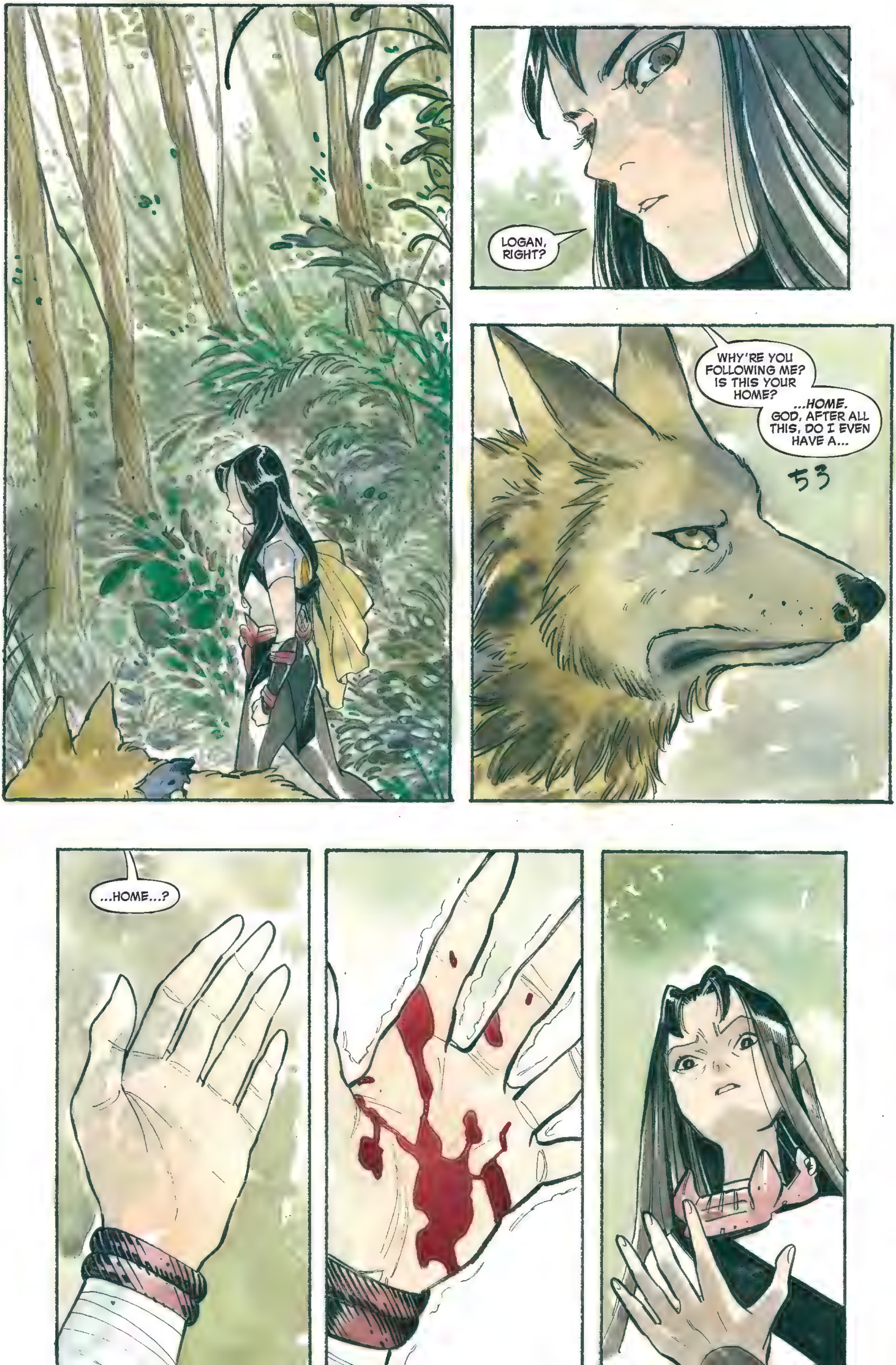
DEMON DAYS
RISING STORM

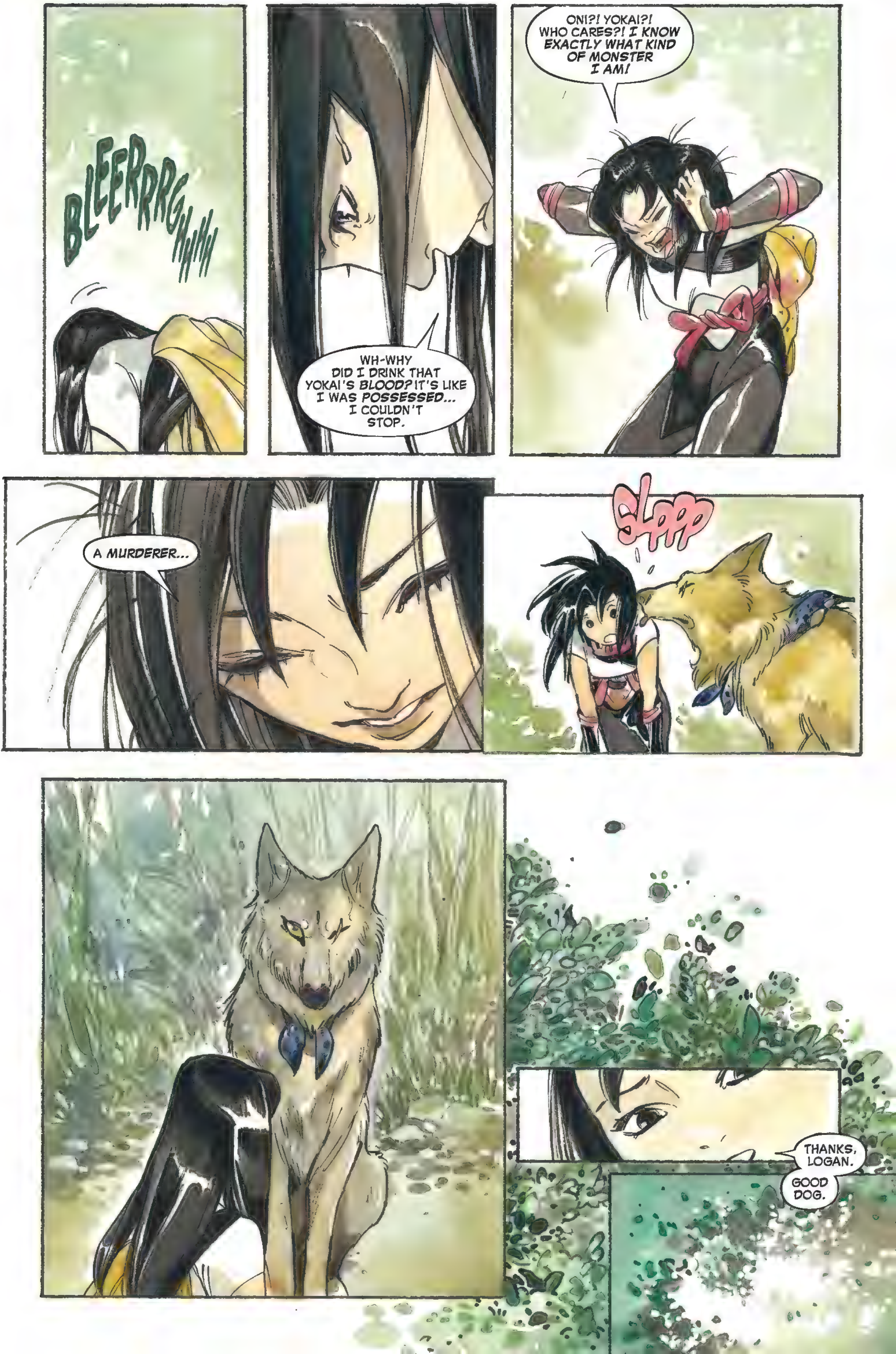

ONCE UPON A TIME, HUMANS AND ONI WERE AT *WAR*.
HUMANS EXPANDED THEIR TERRITORY INTO THE DOMAINS OF THE MONSTROUS CREATURES KNOWN AS *ONI*, SPARKING THE *KIJIN WARS*.
ACCORDING TO LEGEND, ONE OF THE MOST FEARED WARRIORS OF THE ERA WAS THE POWERFUL ONI GENERAL, *KIGANDOJI*.
HE ASSEMBLED A RUTHLESS GANG OF *ONI* AND OTHER *YOKAI*. THEIR BAND RAIDED FROM THE MOUNTAINS AT NIGHT, STRIKING *TERROR* INTO THE HEARTS OF HUMANS.
A LONE WANDERING SAMURAI, *SAINOUCHI SUKEROKU*, STOOD AGAINST THEM. TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE, SUKEROKU CHALLENGED KIGANDOJI TO *SINGLE COMBAT*.
SUKEROKU FOUGHT AND *KILLED* KIGANDOJI AND SCATTERED THE ONI LEADER'S MONSTROUS FOLLOWERS TO THE FOUR WINDS. TAKING KIGANDOJI'S HEAD AS A TROPHY, SUKEROKU CARRIED IT BACK TO THE VILLAGE, WHERE HE WAS CELEBRATED AS A *HERO*.

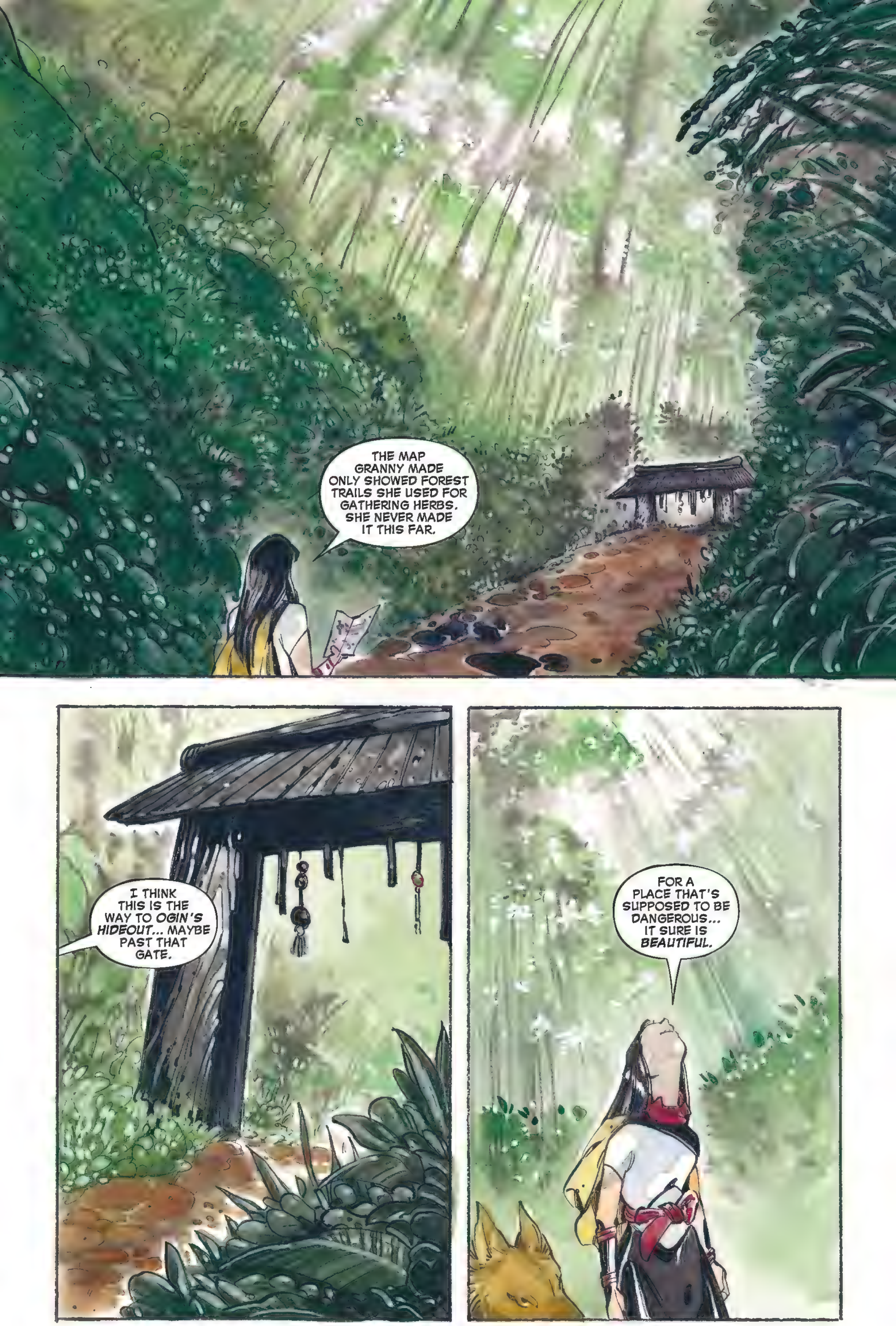

SAINOUCHI SUKEROKU BUILT A GRAND HOUSE AND CONSTRUCTED A *HIDDEN SHRINE* DEEP WITHIN FOR THE HEAD OF KIGANDOJI.
THE HEAD DID NOT DECOMPOSE OR ROT WITH AGE AND WAS CHERISHED AS A *TALISMAN OF PROTECTION.* WITH THE END OF THE KIJIN WARS, THE VILLAGE PROSPERED ONCE MORE.
ON THE *SIXTH ANNIVERSARY* OF HIS VICTORY, SUKEROKU HELD A CELEBRATION.
HE OPENED HIS DOORS AND INVITED VILLAGERS TO DRINK, DANCE, AND SING. AFTER CONSIDERABLE MERRIMENT, THE VILLAGERS SLEPT SCATTERED ON THE FLOOR. SUKEROKU ALONE DRANK A *FINAL TOAST* TO HIS ENEMY.
JUST THEN, A *YOUNG LADY* ARRIVED AND BEGGED PARDON FOR THE INTRUSION.
SHE CLAIMED TO BE FROM A NEIGHBORING VILLAGE AND THAT SHE HAD WALKED MANY NIGHTS TO SPEAK WITH HIM.
"I HEARD YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED KIGANDOJI. I ASK YOUR INDULGENCE TO VIEW THE HEAD."
SUKEROKU LISTENED TO HER STORY. THE LADY SAID THAT LONG AGO, KIGANDOJI *SLEW* HER HUSBAND.
ON THIS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONSTER'S DEATH, SHE WISHED TO SEE THE HEAD AND BRING *PEACE* TO HER HUSBAND'S SOUL.
THE LADY WAS *BEAUTIFUL*, AND SUKEROKU WAS UNABLE TO RESIST. HE BROUGHT HER INTO THE SECRET PART OF HIS HOUSE.

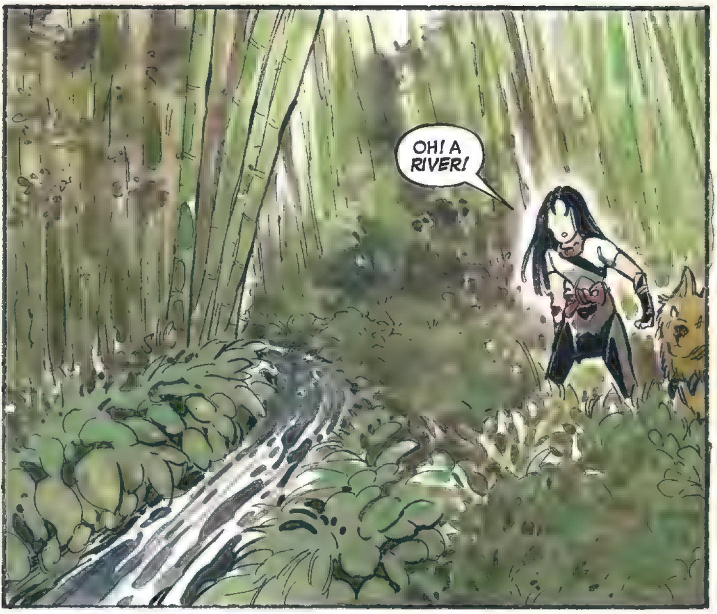

SUKEROKU LED THE LADY TO WHERE KIGANDOJI'S HEAD WAS ENSHRINED. SEEING IT, SHE SANK TO HER KNEES.
SHE BOWED HER HEAD AND PUT HER HANDS TOGETHER IN PRAYER. TEARS ROLLED DOWN HER CHEEKS.
"*MY HUSBAND*," SHE WHISPERED.
IN THE FLICKERING CANDLELIGHT, THE BEAUTIFUL LADY'S BACK GREW *LARGE*.
HER HANDS STRETCHED, AND *CLAWED NAILS* SPRUNG FROM HER FINGERS.
SHARP HORNS SPROUTED FROM HER HEAD, AND HER BEAUTIFUL FACE DISTORTED INTO THAT OF AN *ONI*.
SUKEROKU DREW HIS SWORD, BUT HE WAS *TOO LATE*. THE ONI WOMAN GRABBED KIGANDOJI'S HEAD AND FLEW INTO THE NIGHT SKY.
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME AN ONI WAS SPOTTED NEAR THE HUMAN VILLAGES, ALTHOUGH IT IS RUMORED THEY STILL LIVE IN *KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN*.
SOON AFTER, THE VILLAGE DECLINED, AND SAINOUCHI SUKEROKU'S GRAND HOUSE FELL INTO *RUIN*.

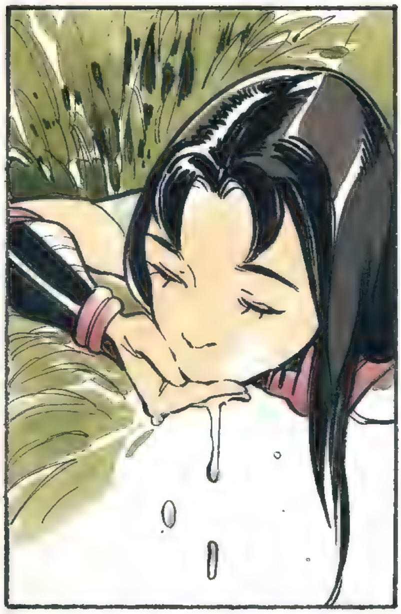

"...THE BRAVE WOMAN RECLAIMED HER HUSBAND'S HEAD FROM THE SAMURAI. KIGANDOJI'S SPIRIT COMMANDED HER TO MAKE ARMOR FROM HIS BONES TO PROTECT THEIR DESCENDANTS."
THIS HAS BEEN IN OUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS, MARIKO. ONE DAY IT WILL BE YOURS.
THIS MENPO JAW ARMOR HOLDS THE POWER OF YOUR ANCESTORS. IT WILL PROTECT YOU WHEN THE TIME COMES.
WHEN I AM NO LONGER THERE...
IT LOOKS SCARY, MAMA.
OUR KIND HAS ALWAYS BEEN HUNTED.
SOMETIMES, WE NEED TO BE SCARY.

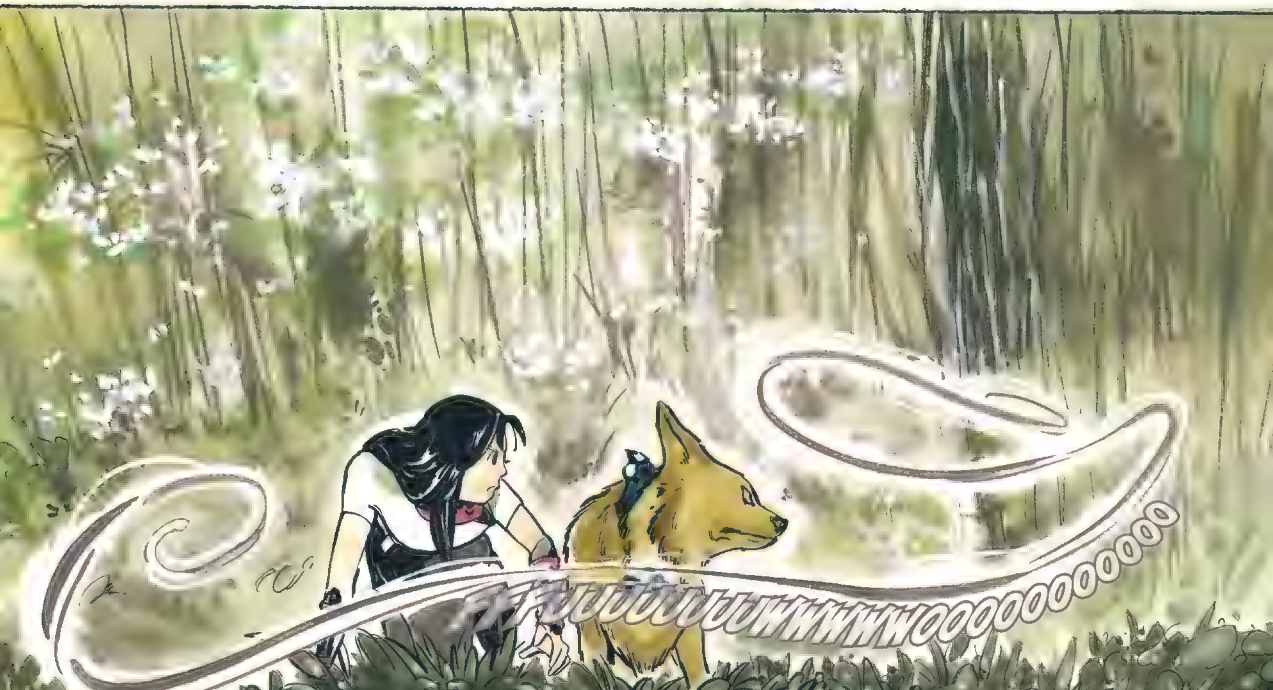

LOGAN, RIGHT?
WHY'RE YOU FOLLOWING ME? IS THIS YOUR HOME?
...HOME. GOD, AFTER ALL THIS, DO I EVEN HAVE A...
ちろ
...HOME...?

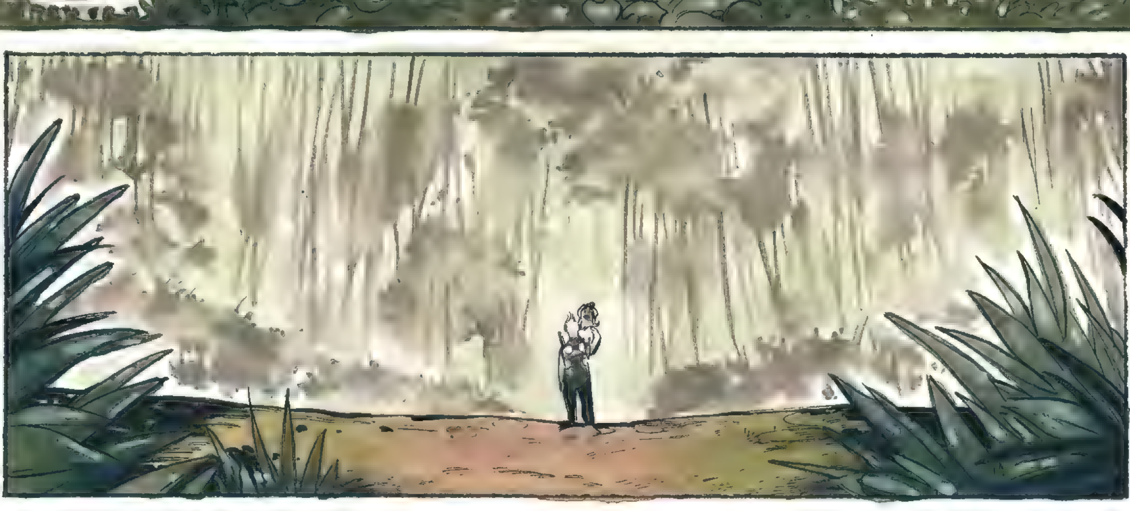

BLEERRRGHHHH
WH-WHY DID I DRINK THAT YOKAI'S *BLOOD?* IT'S LIKE I WAS *POSSESSED...* I COULDN'T STOP.
ONI?! YOKAI?! WHO CARES?! I KNOW *EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF MONSTER I AM!*
A *MURDERER...*
SLPPP
THANKS, LOGAN.
GOOD DOG.

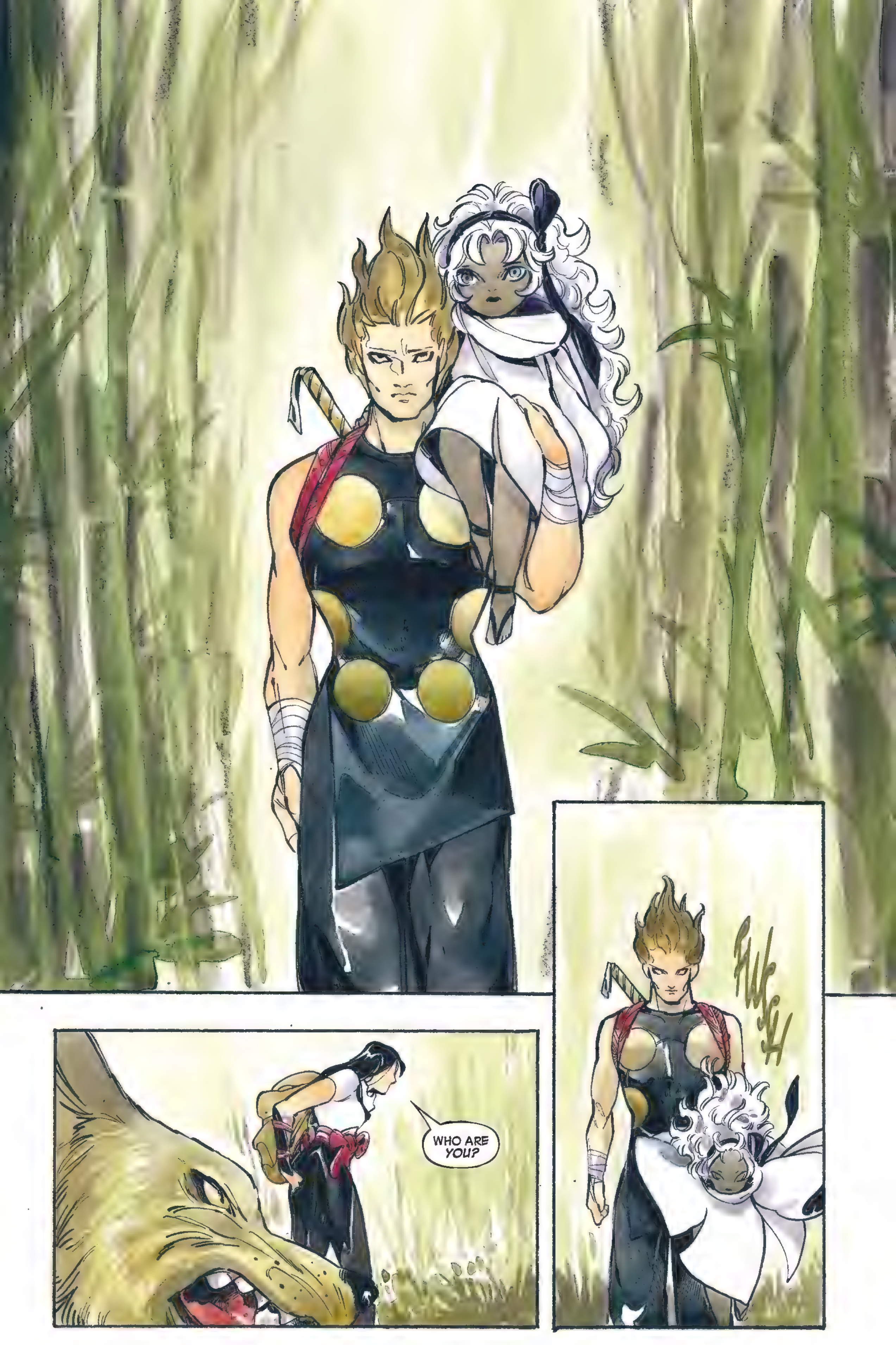

THE MAP GRANNY MADE ONLY SHOWED FOREST TRAILS SHE USED FOR GATHERING HERBS. SHE NEVER MADE IT THIS FAR.
I THINK THIS IS THE WAY TO *OGIN'S HIDEOUT*... MAYBE PAST THAT GATE.
FOR A PLACE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE DANGEROUS... IT SURE IS *BEAUTIFUL*.

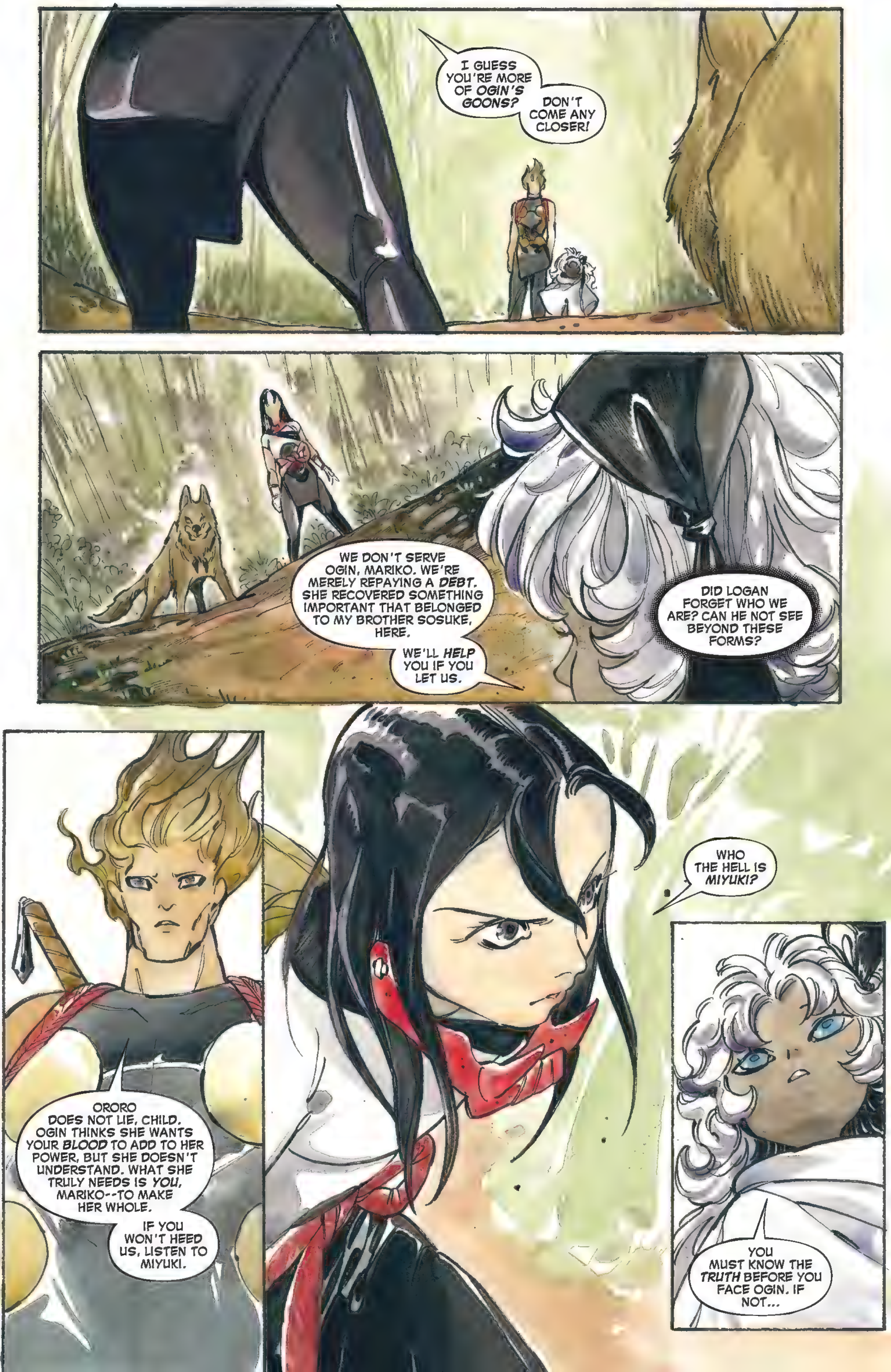

OH! A RIVER!

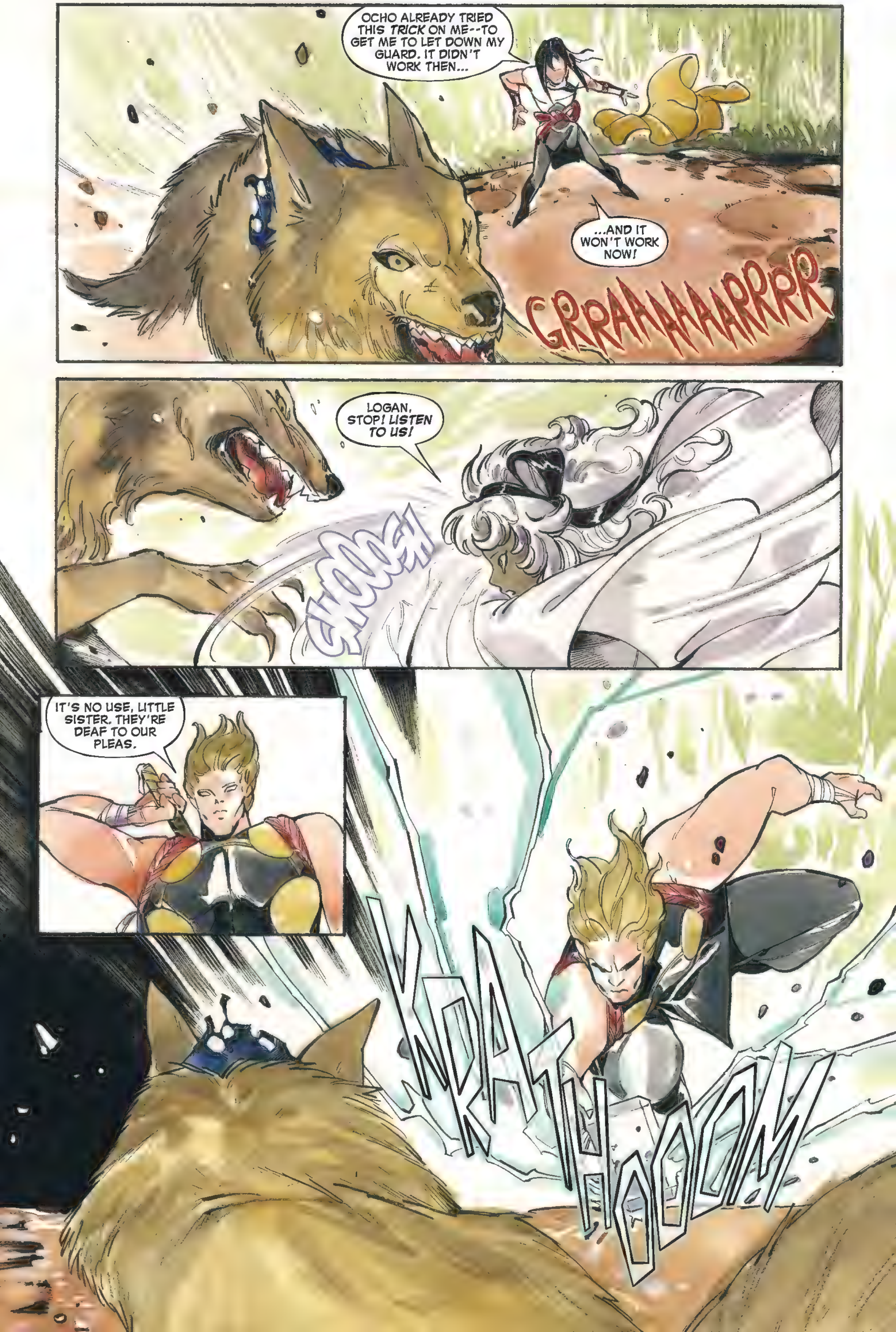


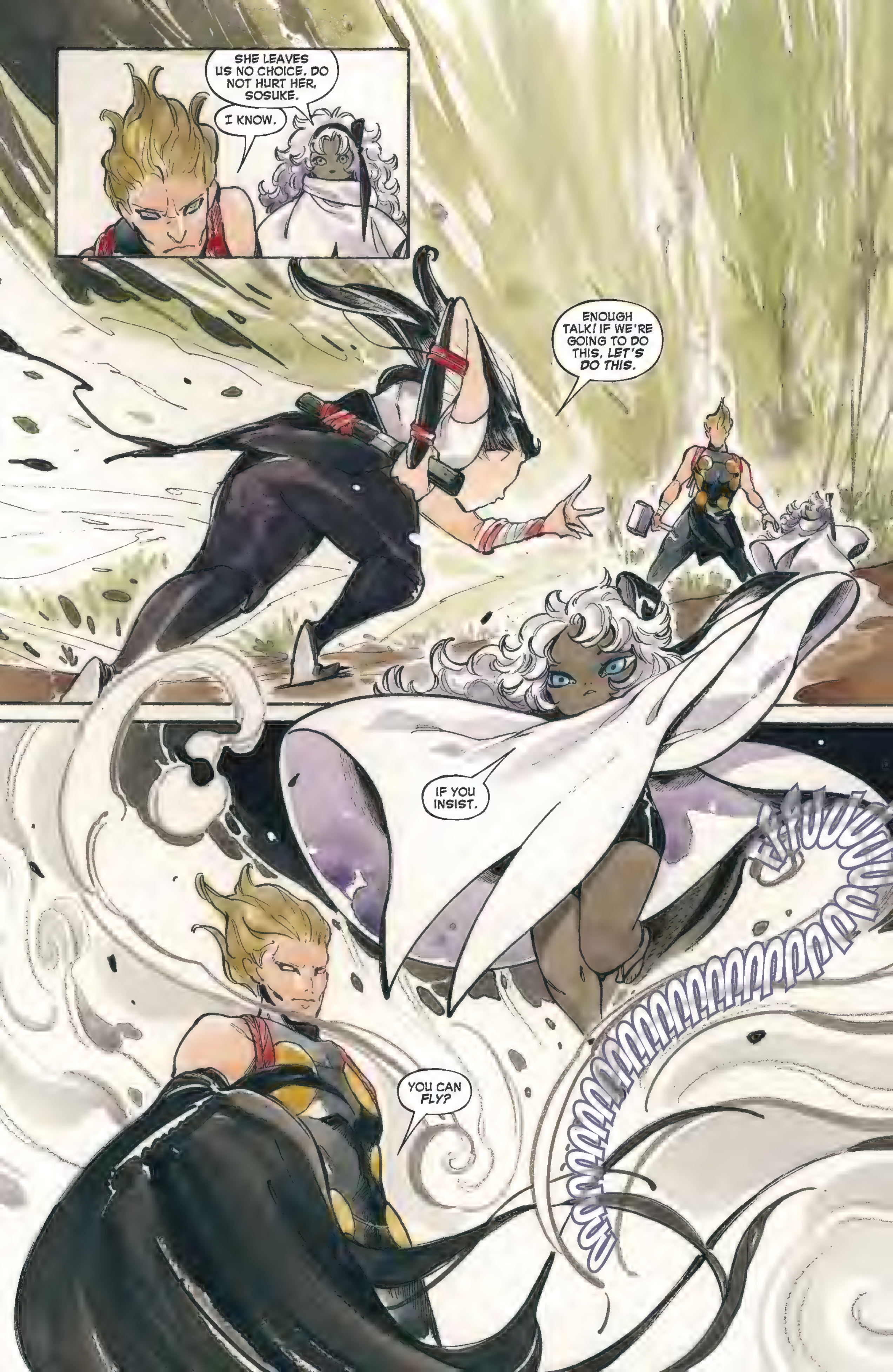

FFUUUUUUUWWWWWOOOOOOOOOOOOO

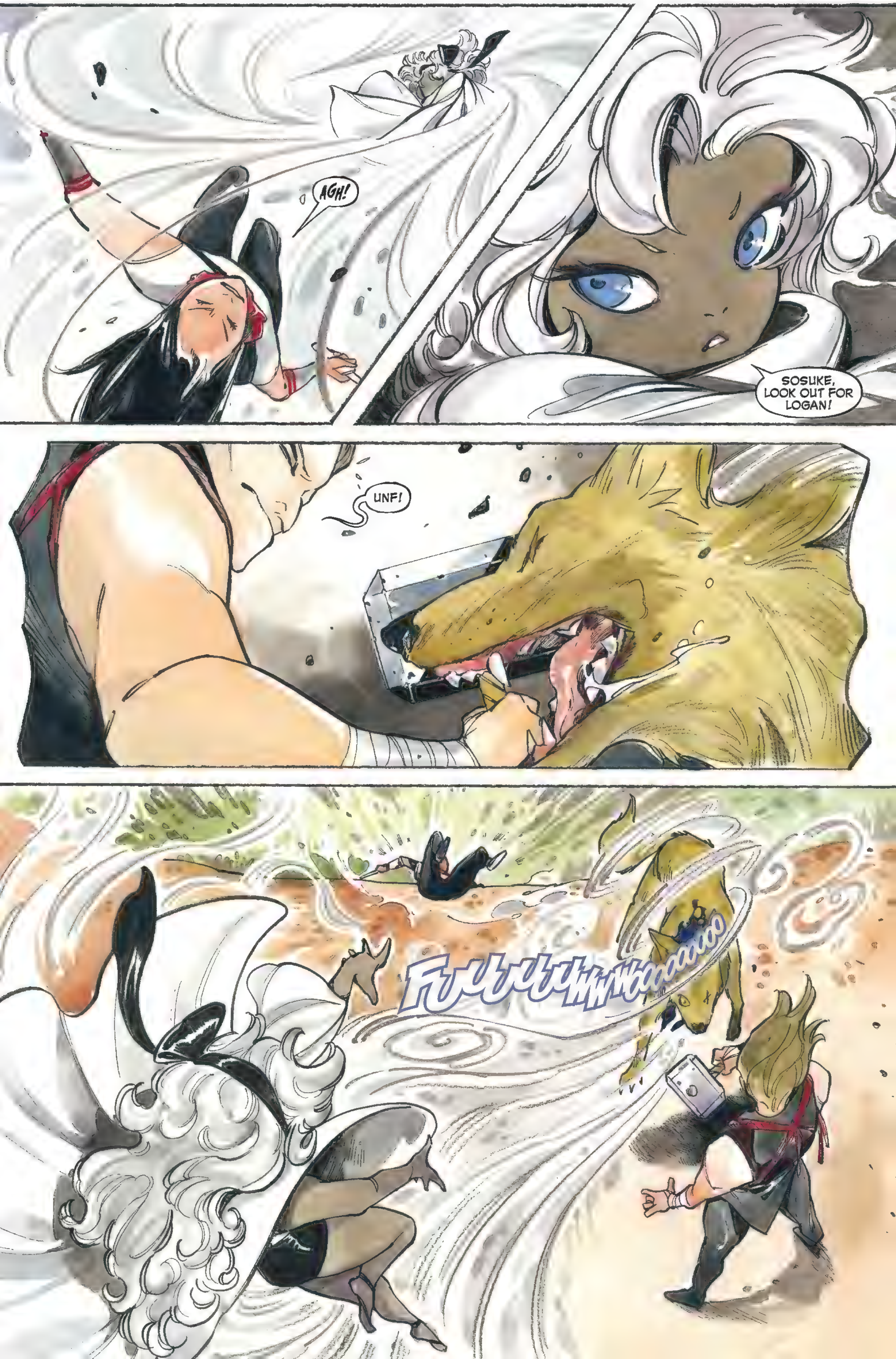


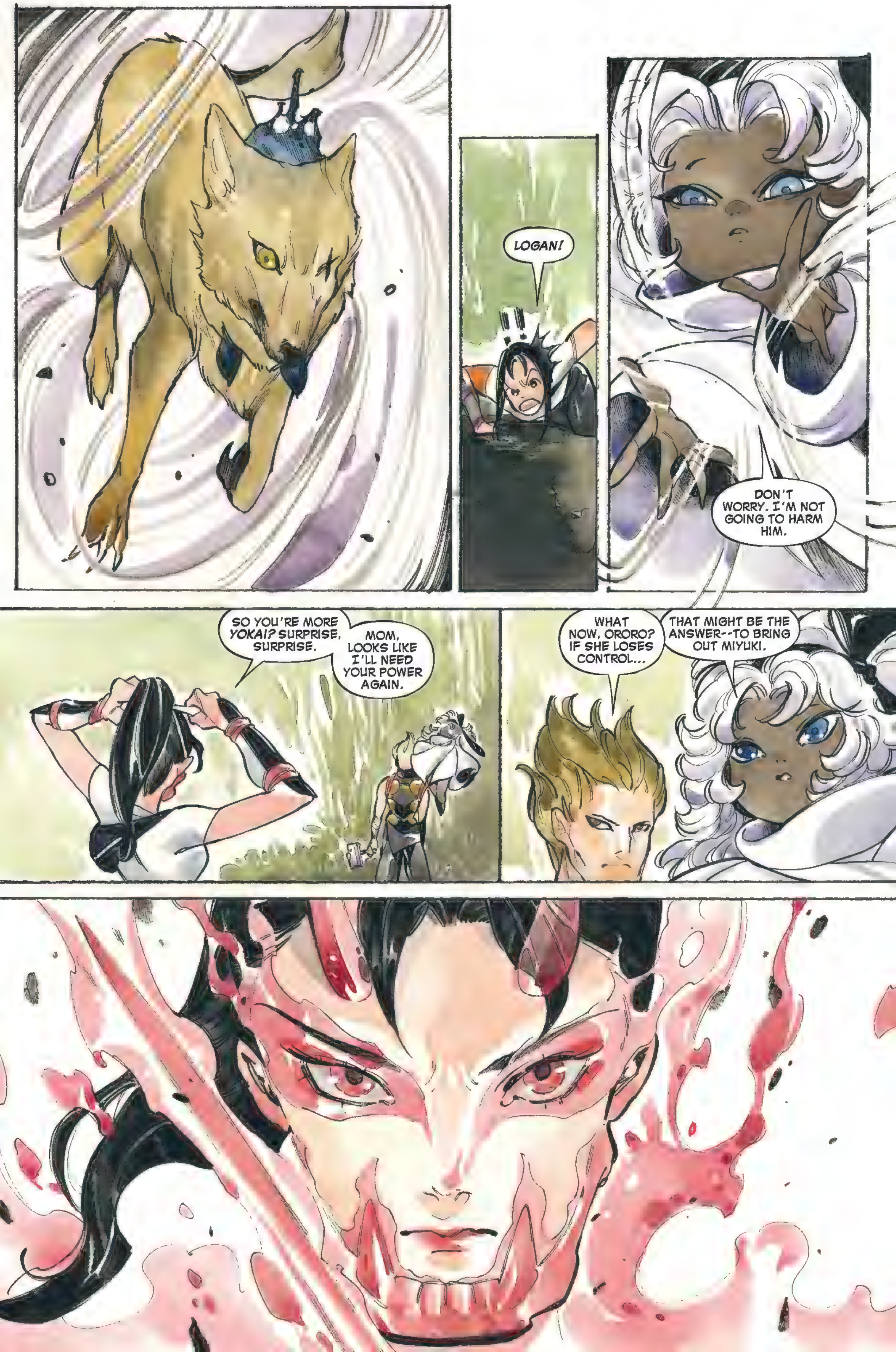

WHO ARE YOU?
FWUSH

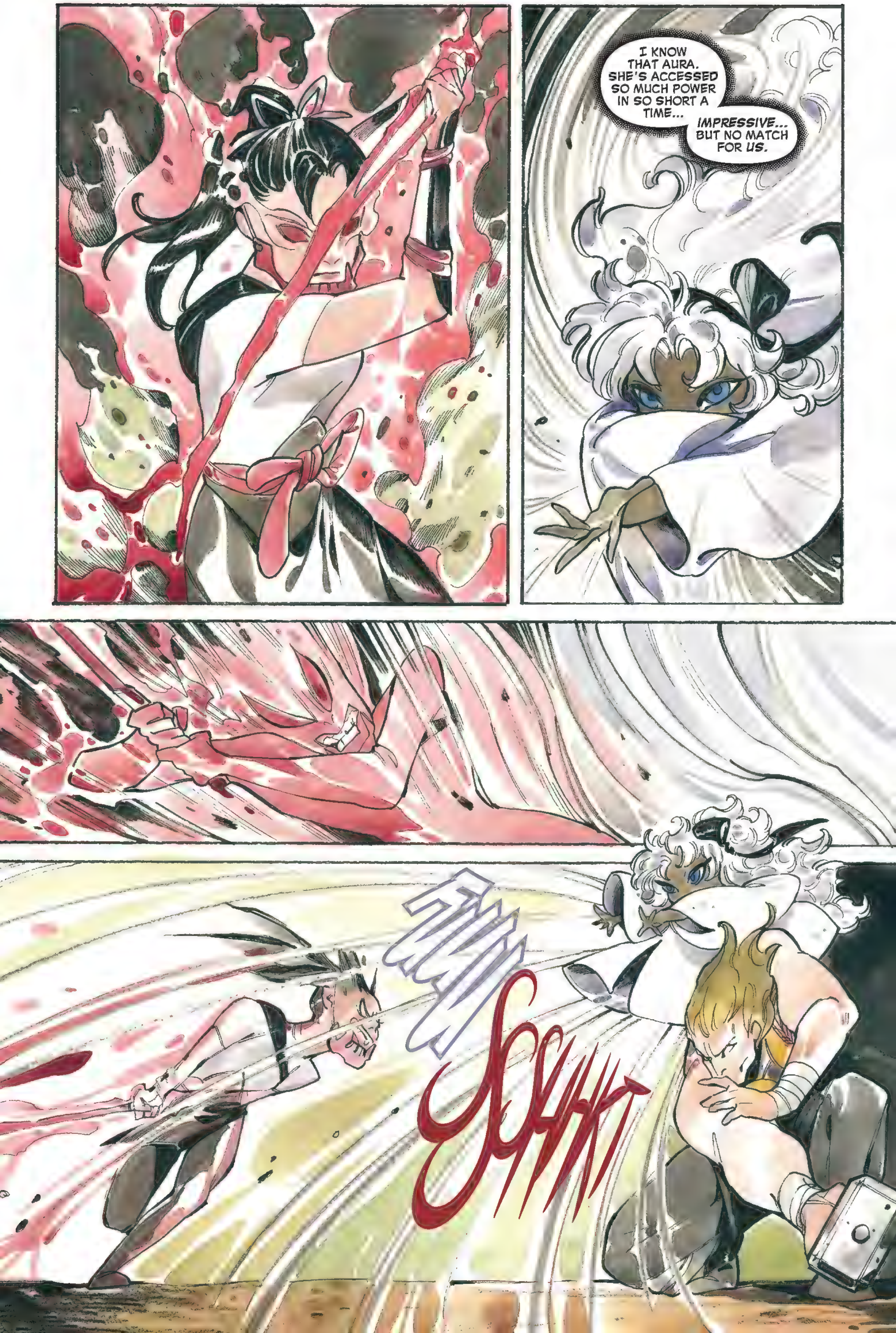

I GUESS YOU'RE MORE OF *OGIN'S GOONS?*
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
WE DON'T SERVE OGIN, MARIKO. WE'RE MERELY REPAYING A *DEBT*. SHE RECOVERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT BELONGED TO MY BROTHER SOSUKE, HERE.
WE'LL *HELP* YOU IF YOU LET US.
DID LOGAN FORGET WHO WE ARE? CAN HE NOT SEE BEYOND THESE FORMS?
ORORO DOES NOT LIE, CHILD. OGIN THINKS SHE WANTS YOUR *BLOOD* TO ADD TO HER POWER, BUT SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT SHE TRULY NEEDS IS *YOU*, MARIKO--TO MAKE HER WHOLE.
IF YOU WON'T HEED US, LISTEN TO MIYUKI.
WHO THE HELL IS *MIYUKI?*
YOU MUST KNOW THE *TRUTH* BEFORE YOU FACE OGIN. IF NOT...

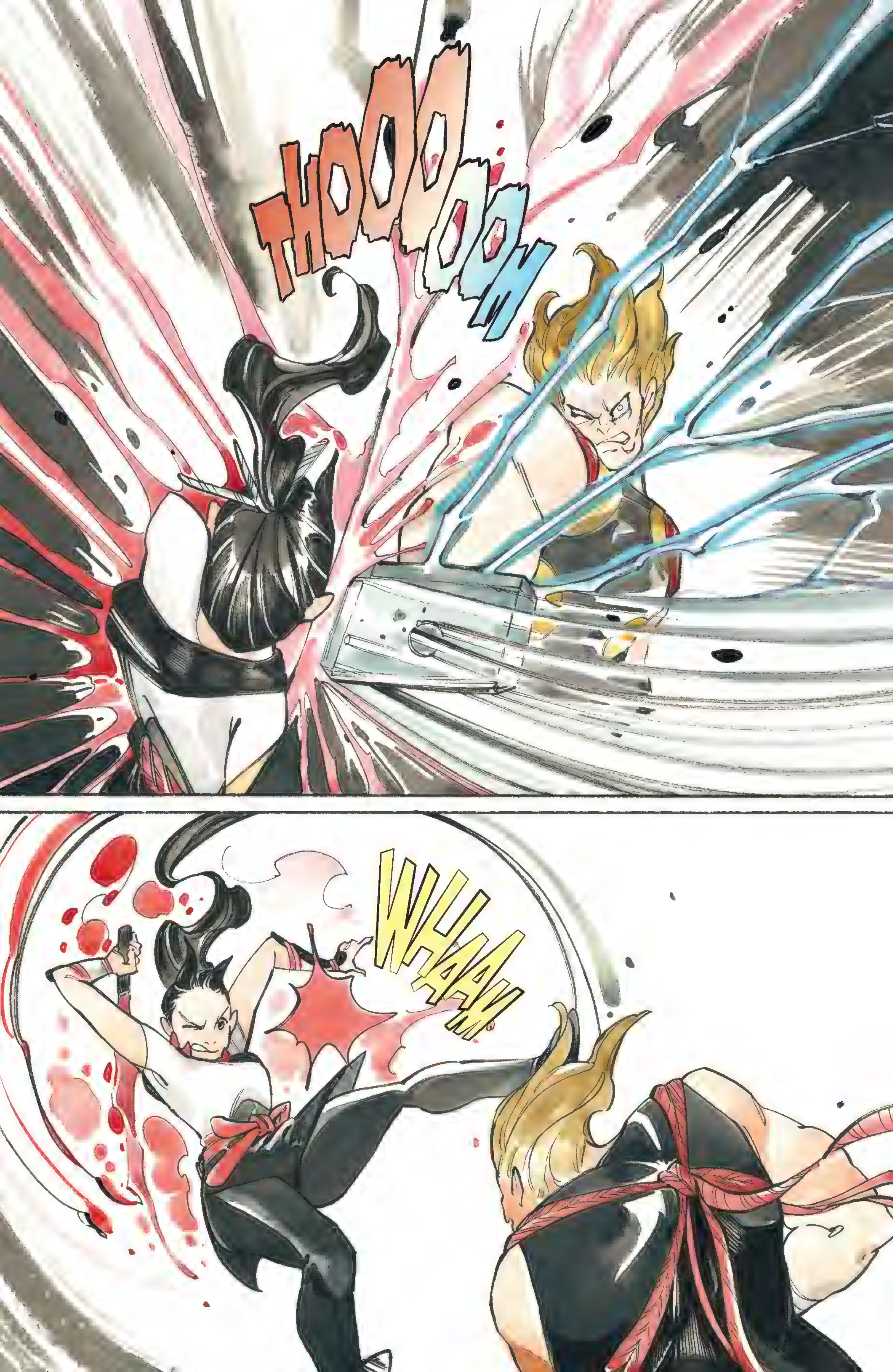

OCHO ALREADY TRIED THIS *TRICK* ON ME--TO GET ME TO LET DOWN MY GUARD. IT DIDN'T WORK THEN...
...AND IT WON'T WORK NOW!
GRRAAAAAARRRR
LOGAN, STOP! *LISTEN TO US!*
SWOOSH
IT'S NO USE, LITTLE SISTER. THEY'RE DEAF TO OUR PLEAS.
KRATHOOOM

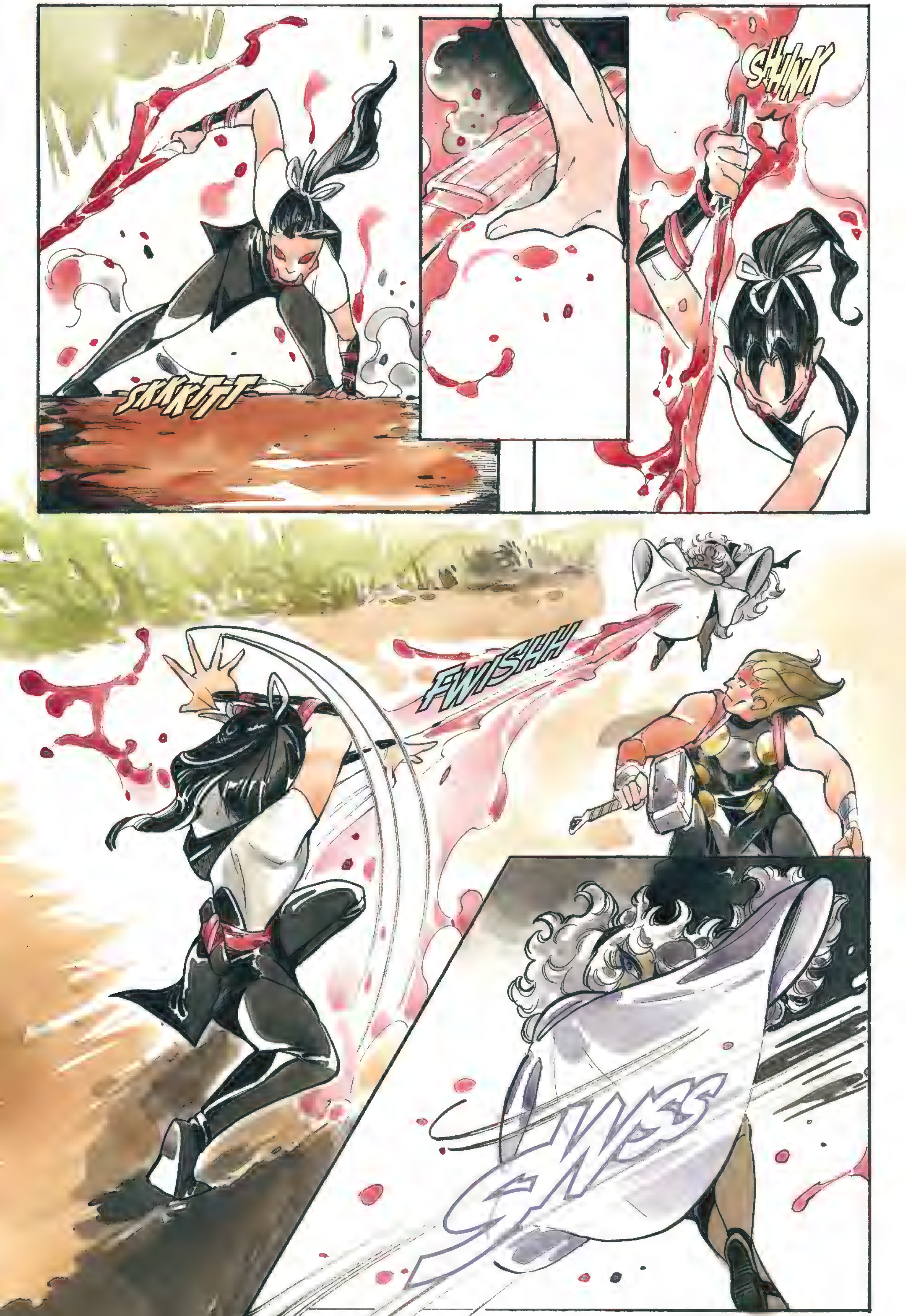

SHE LEAVES US NO CHOICE. DO NOT HURT HER, SOSUKE.
I KNOW.
ENOUGH TALK! IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS, *LET'S DO THIS*.
IF YOU INSIST.
YOU CAN *FLY?*

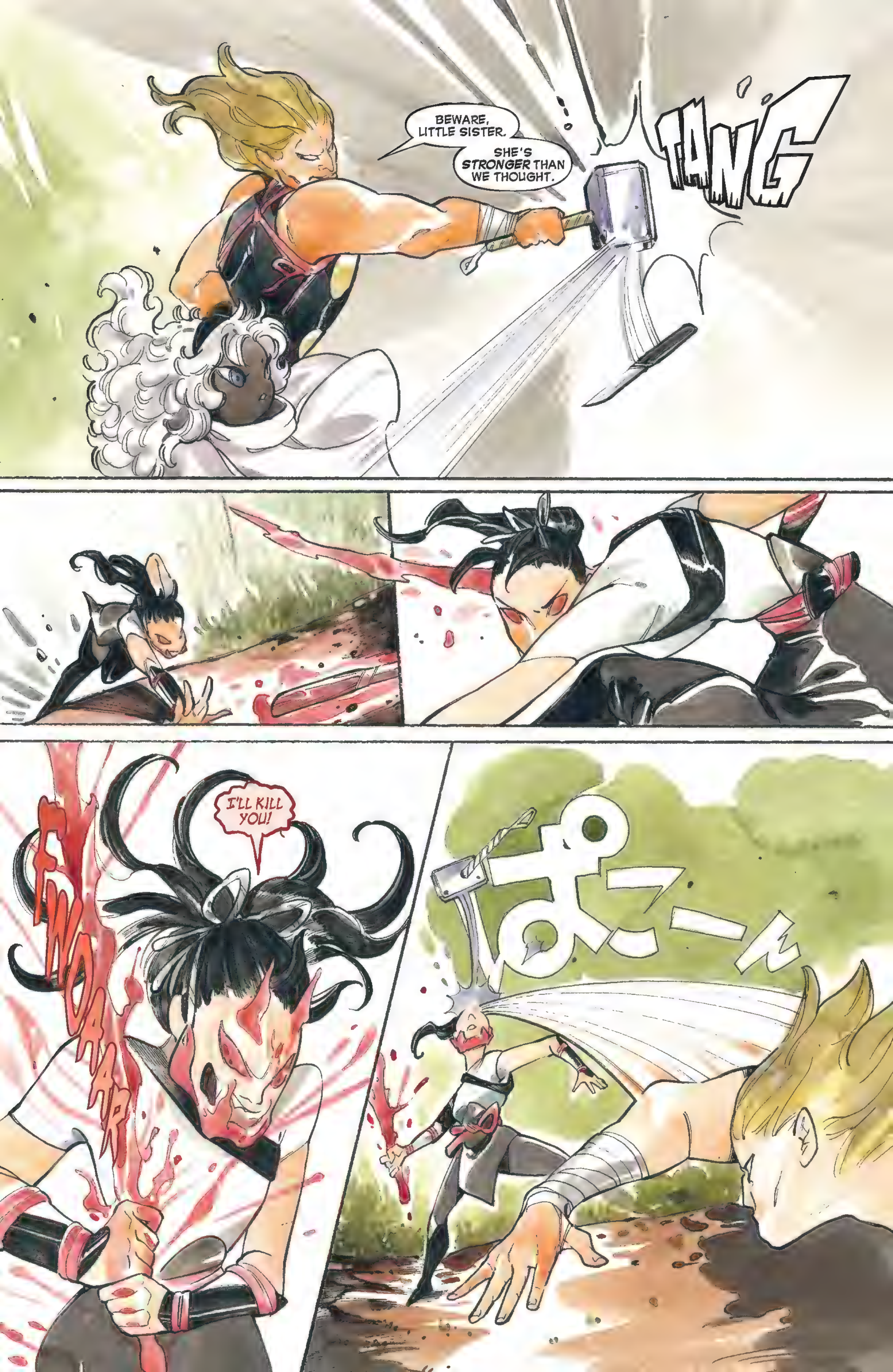

AGH!
SOSUKE, LOOK OUT FOR LOGAN!
UNF!
FUUUUWWOOOOOO

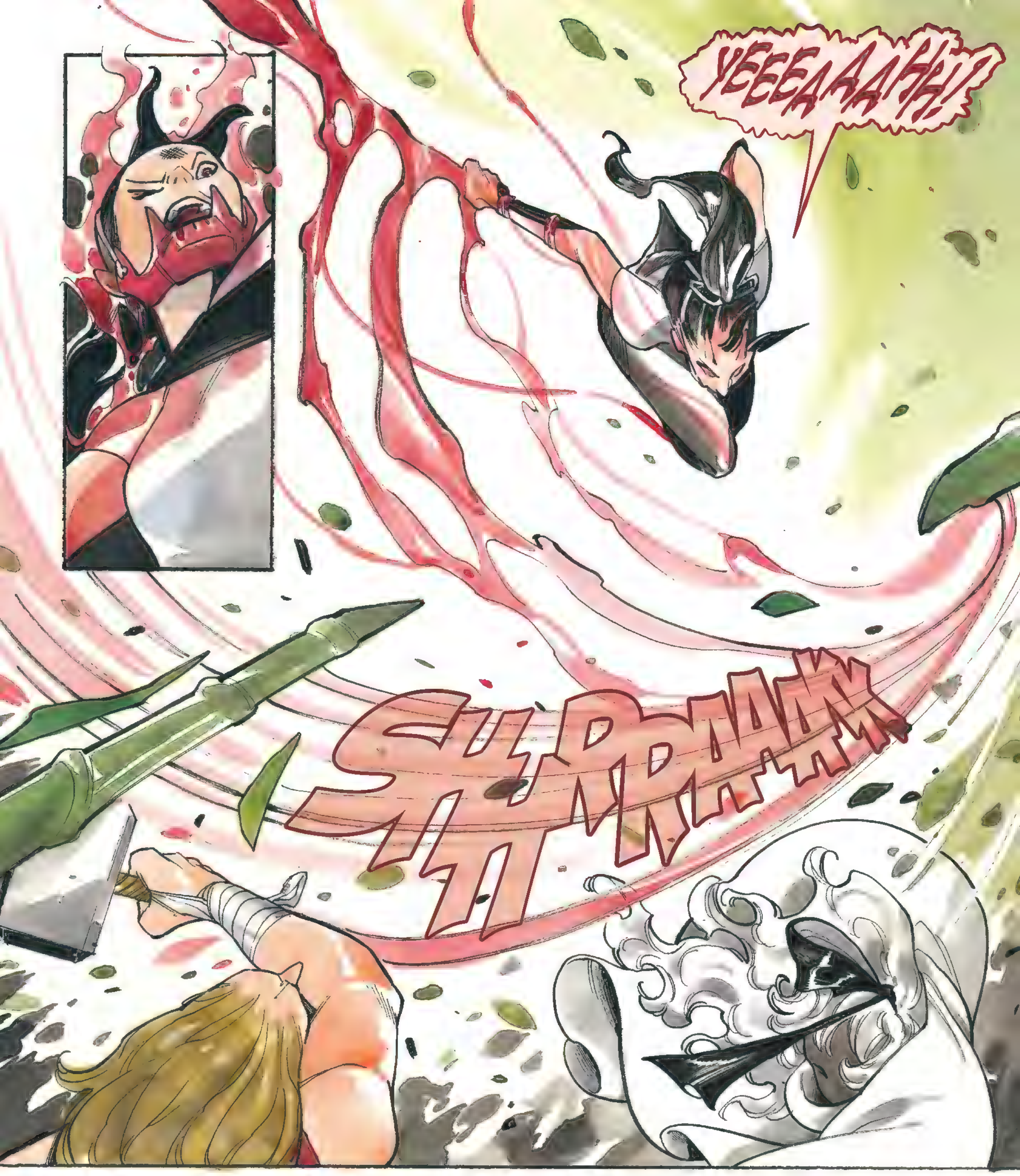

LOGAN!
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO HARM HIM.
SO YOU'RE MORE *YOKAI?* SURPRISE, SURPRISE.
MOM, LOOKS LIKE I'LL NEED YOUR POWER AGAIN.
WHAT NOW, ORORO? IF SHE LOSES CONTROL...
THAT MIGHT BE THE ANSWER--TO BRING OUT MIYUKI.

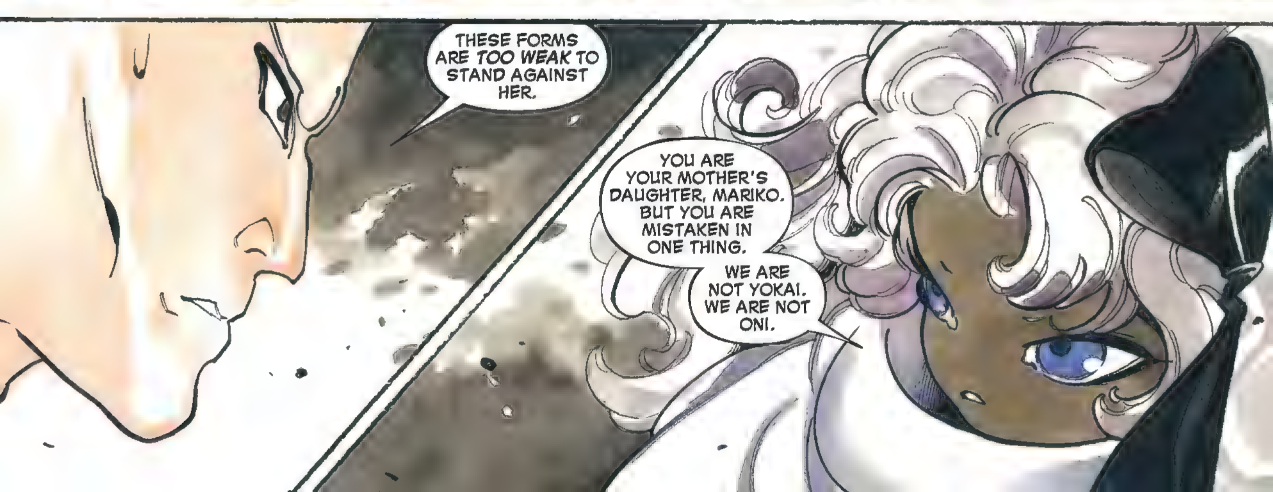

I KNOW THAT AURA. SHE'S ACCESSED SO MUCH POWER IN SO SHORT A TIME...
IMPRESSIVE... BUT NO MATCH FOR *US.*

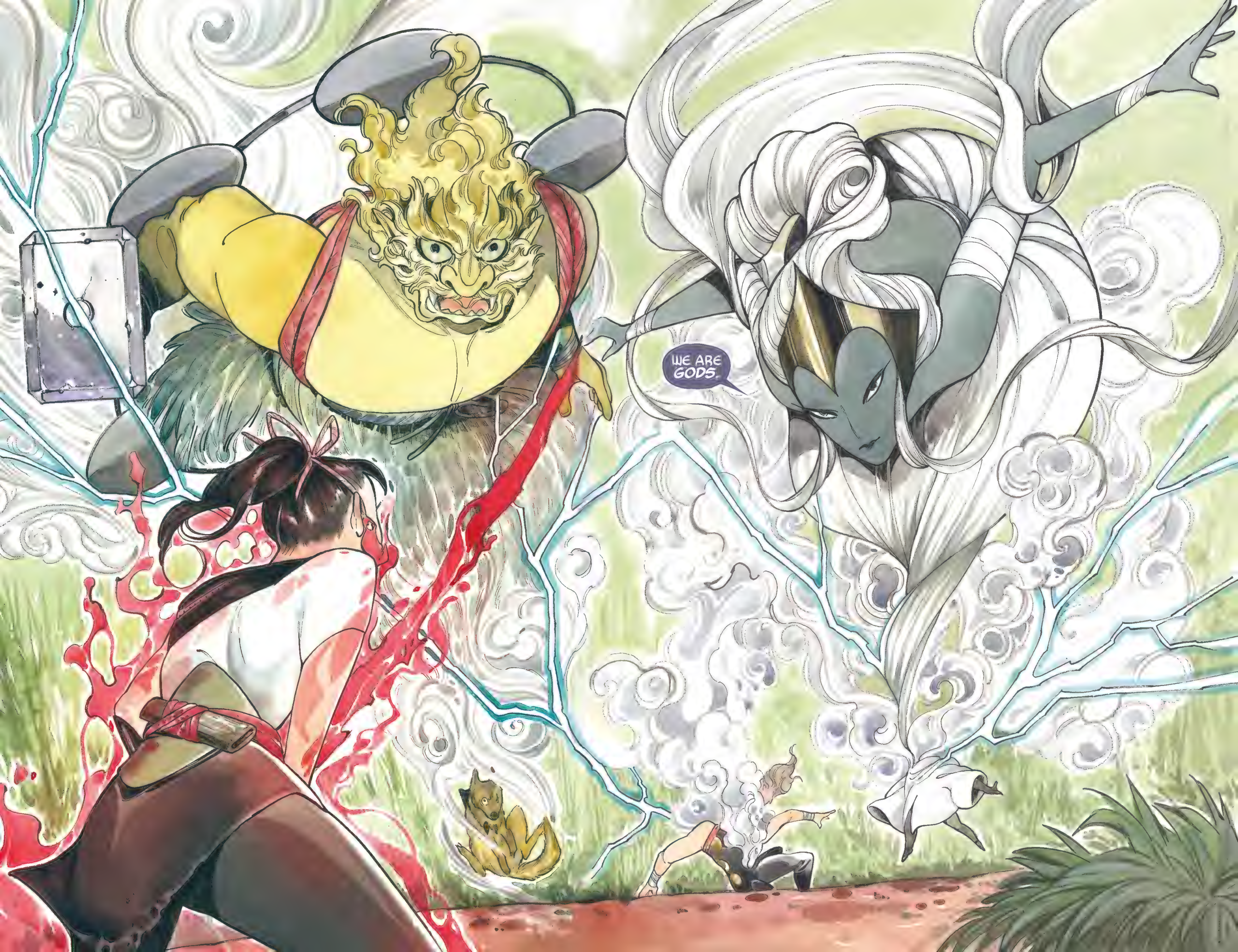

THOOOOOM
WHAAM

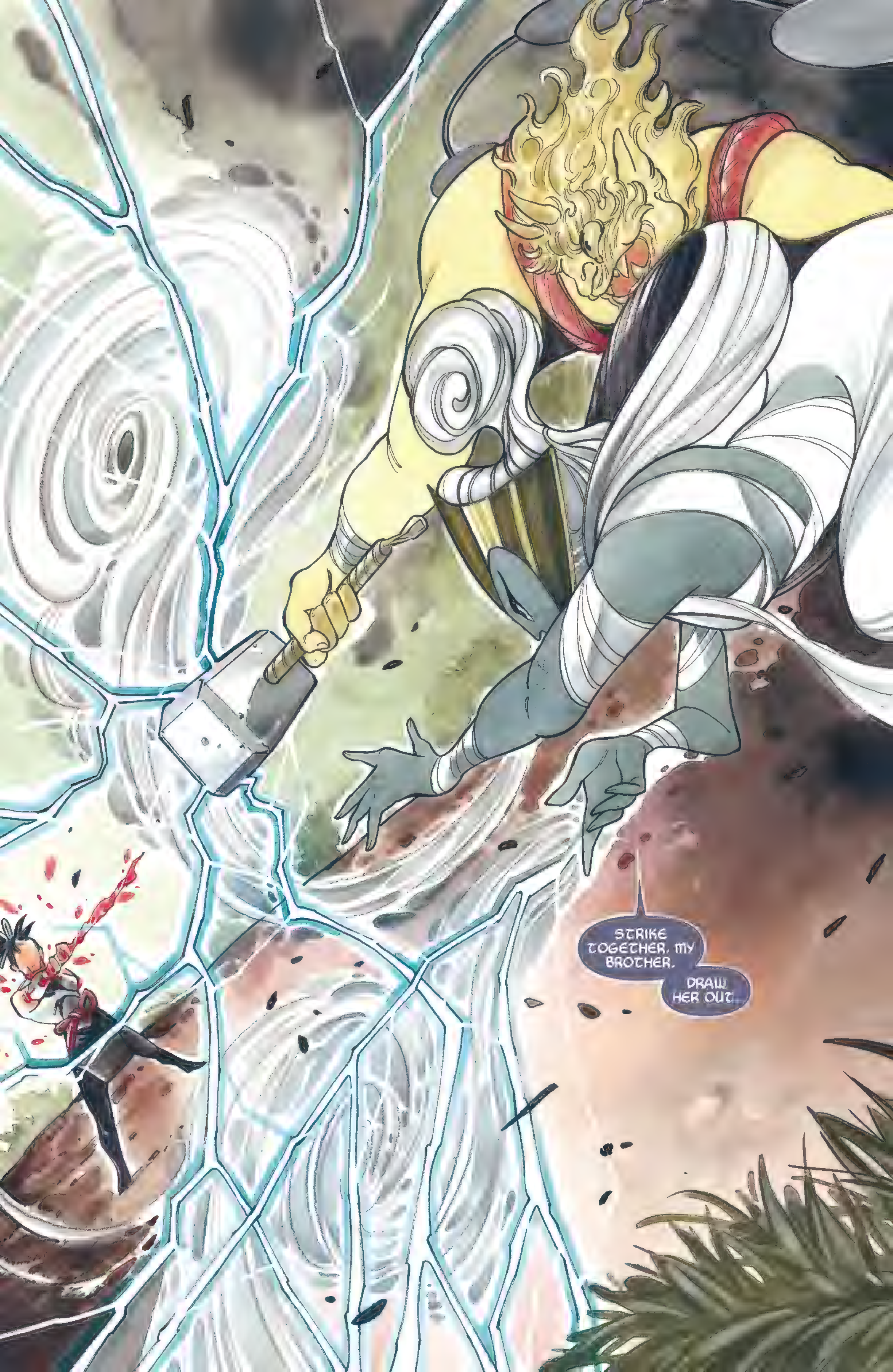

SKKKTTT
SHINK
FWISHH
SWESS

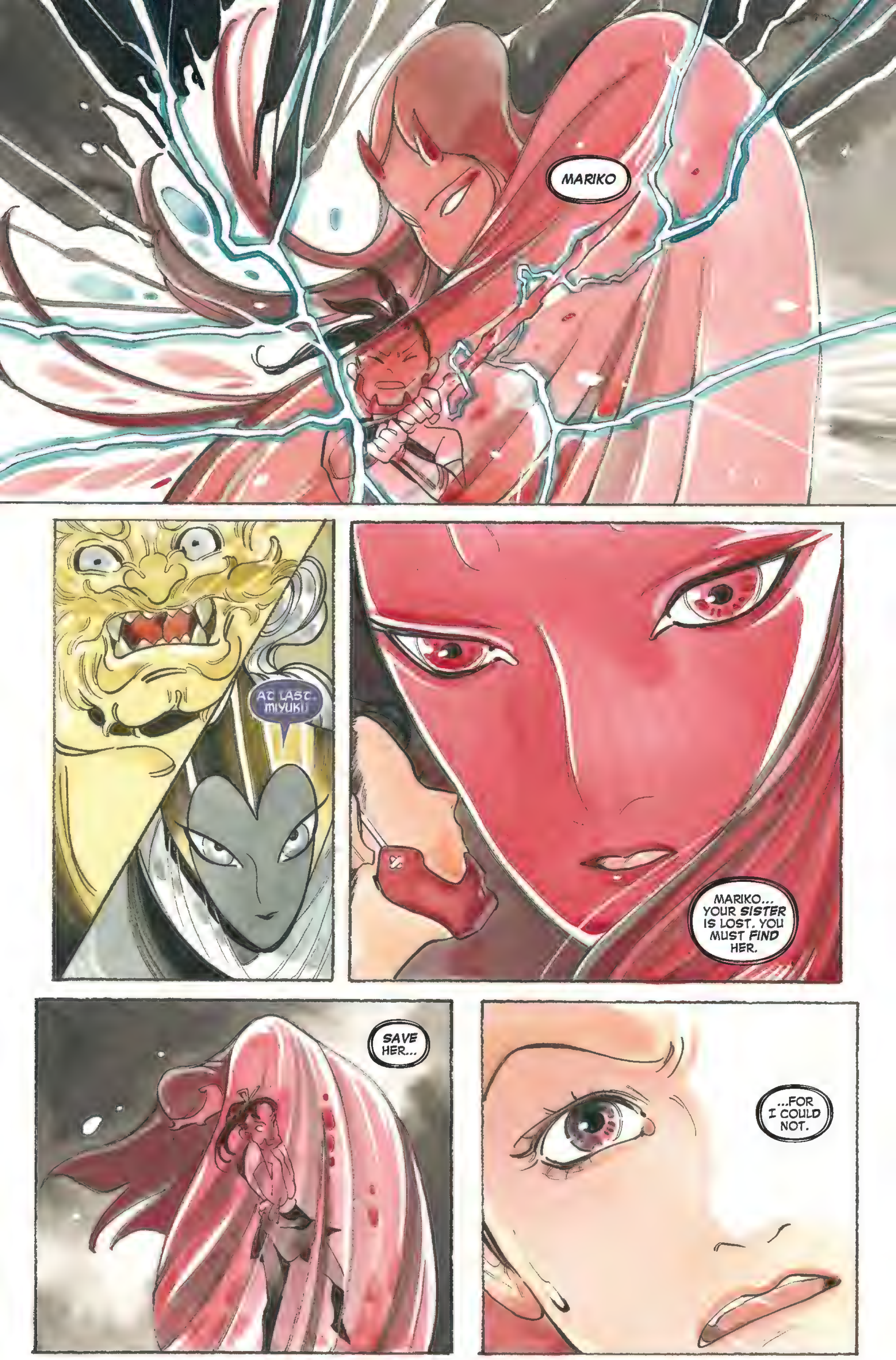

BEWARE, LITTLE SISTER.
SHE'S STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT.
TANG
I'LL KILL YOU!
FWOAAR!
ぱこーん

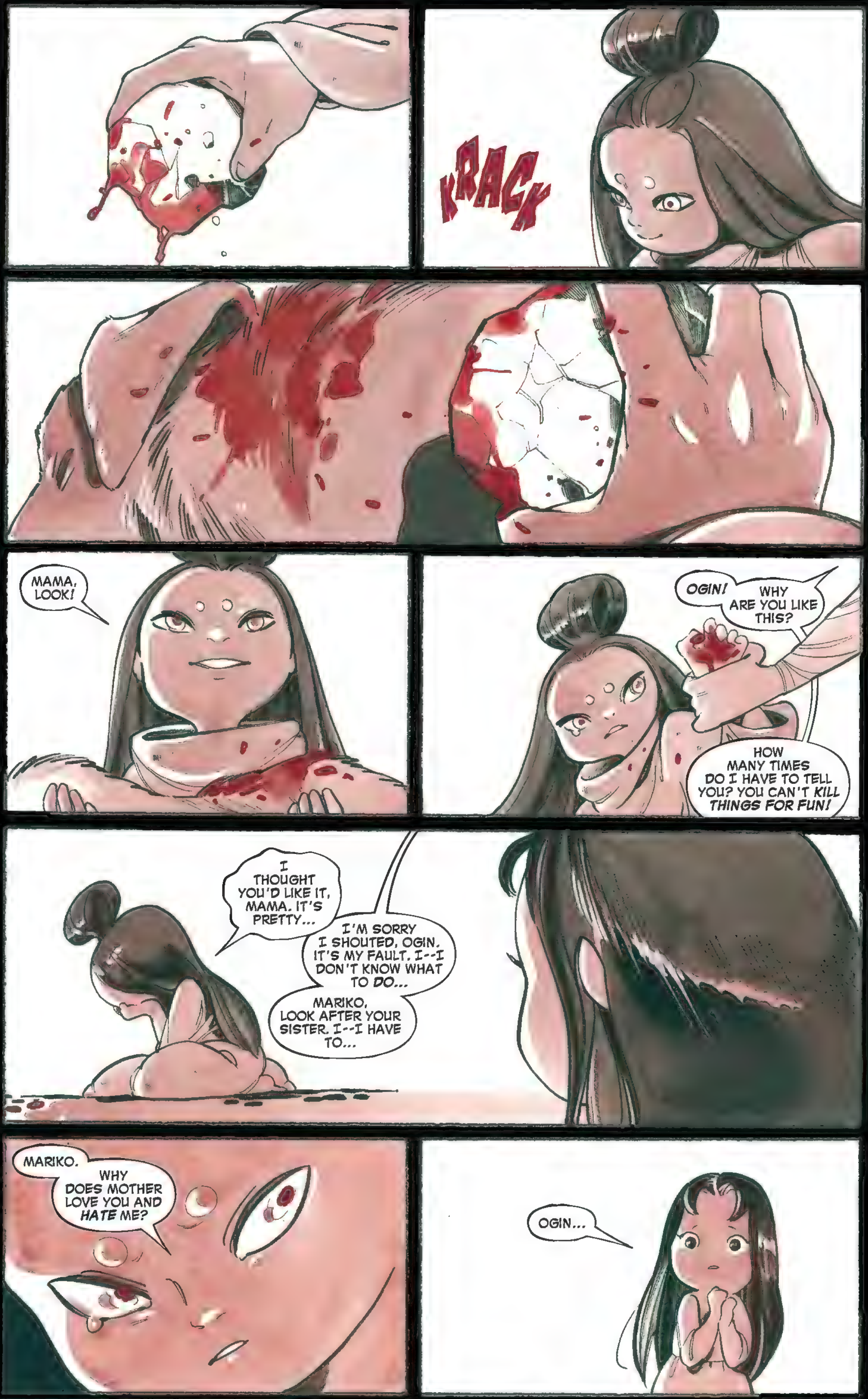

YEEEAAAHH!!
SHRRAAAKK

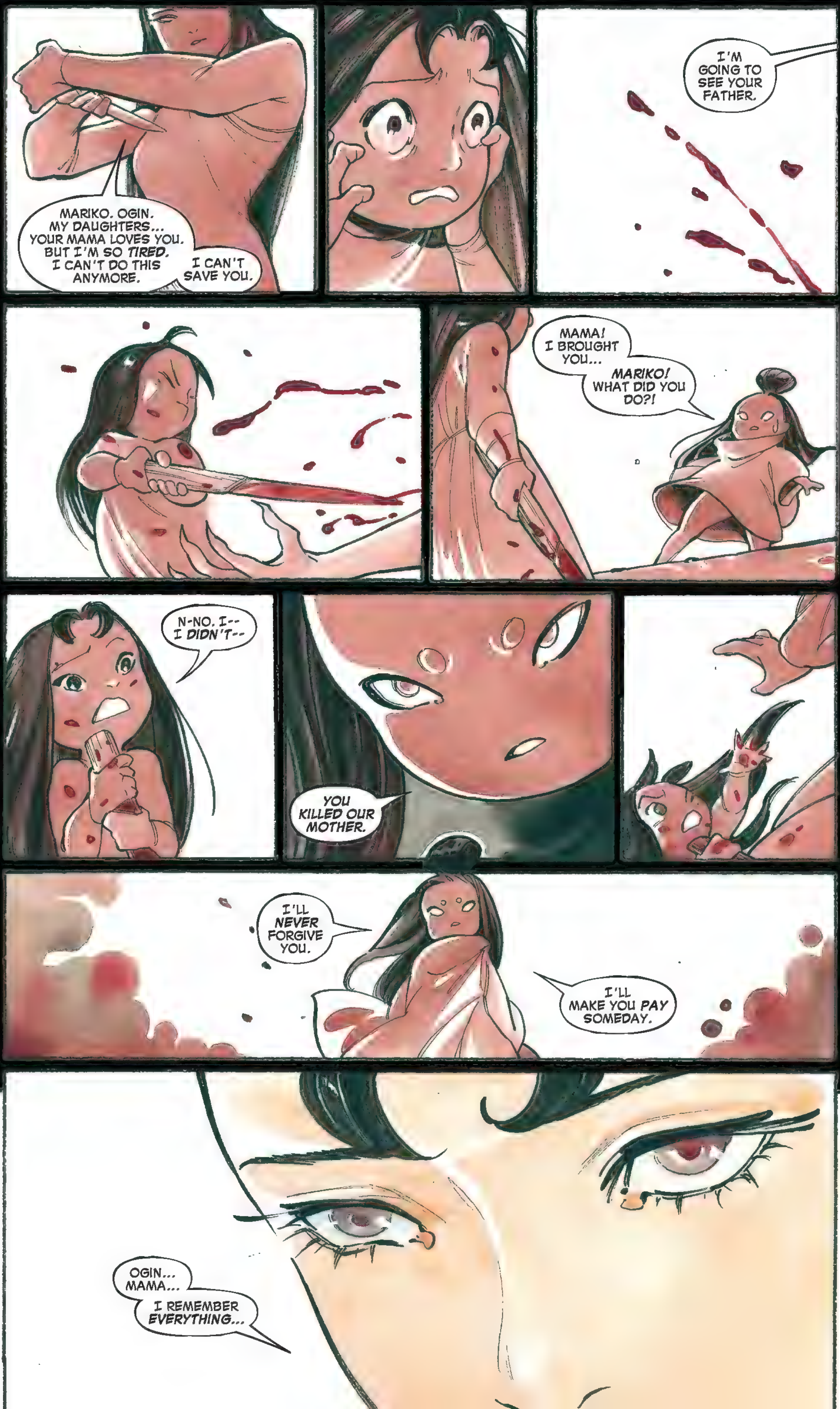

THESE FORMS ARE *TOO WEAK* TO STAND AGAINST HER.
YOU ARE YOUR MOTHER'S DAUGHTER, MARIKO. BUT YOU ARE MISTAKEN IN ONE THING.
WE ARE NOT YOKAI. WE ARE NOT ONI.

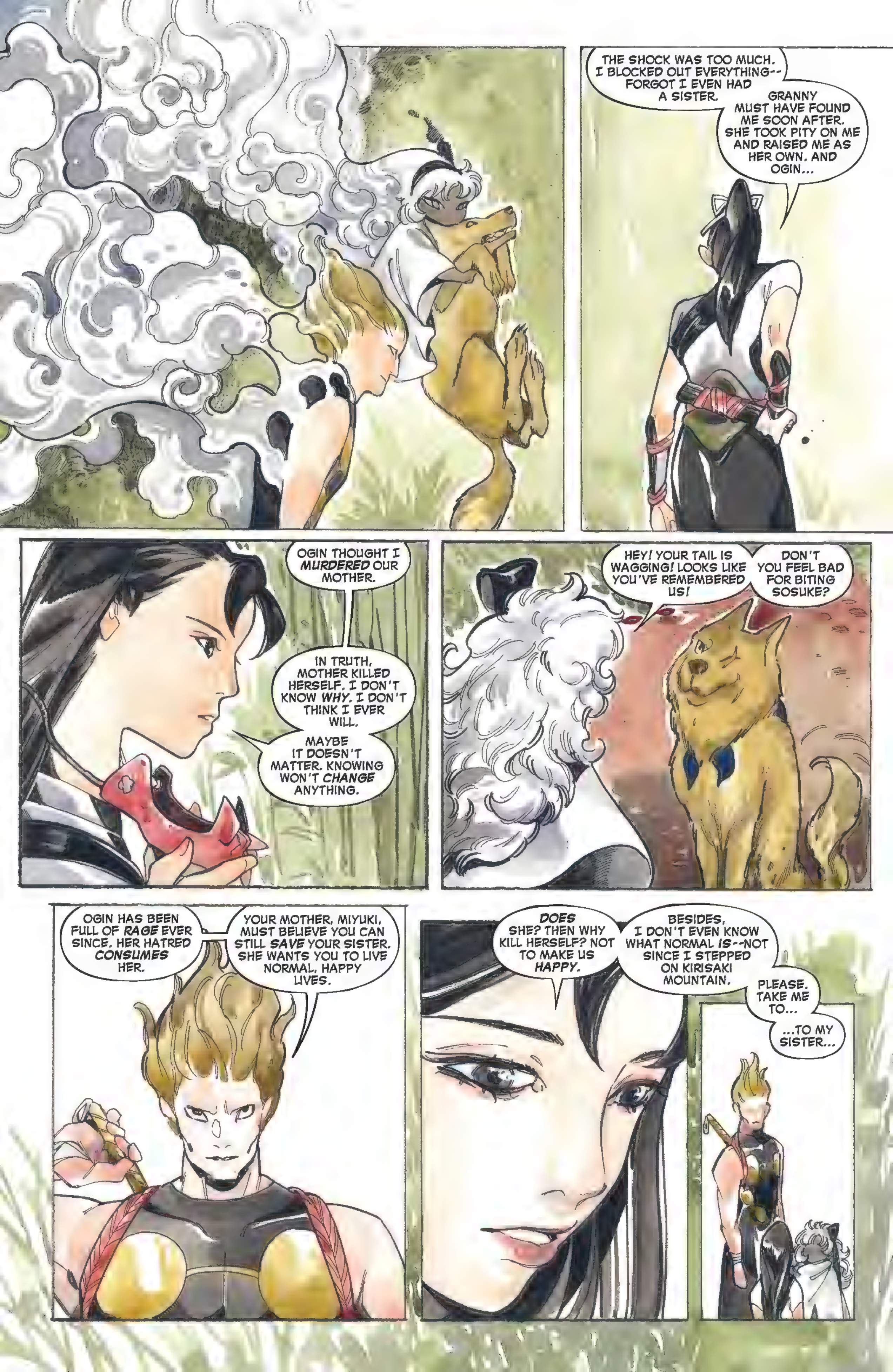

WE ARE GODS.

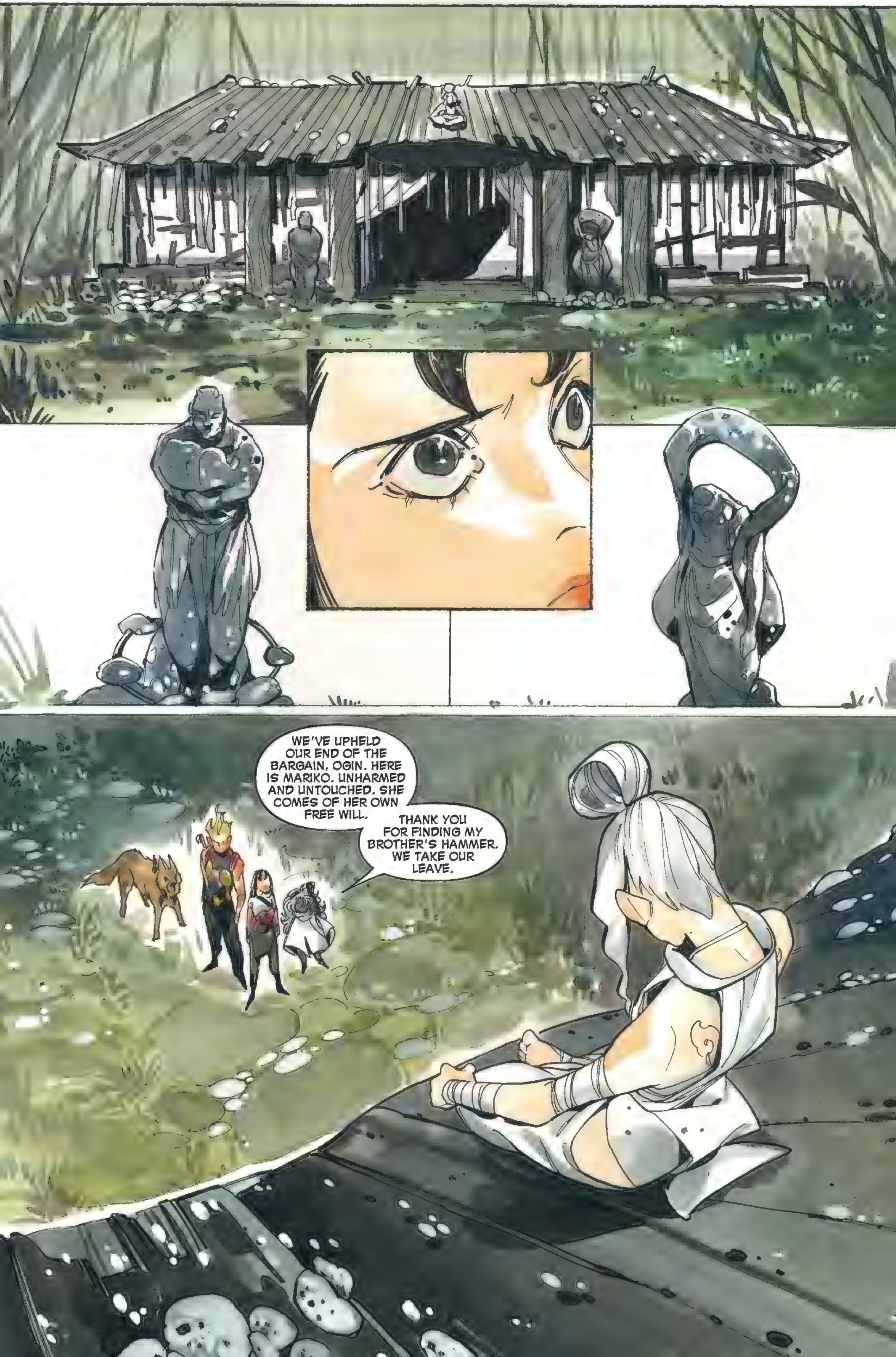

STRIKE TOGETHER, MY BROTHER.
DRAW HER OUT...

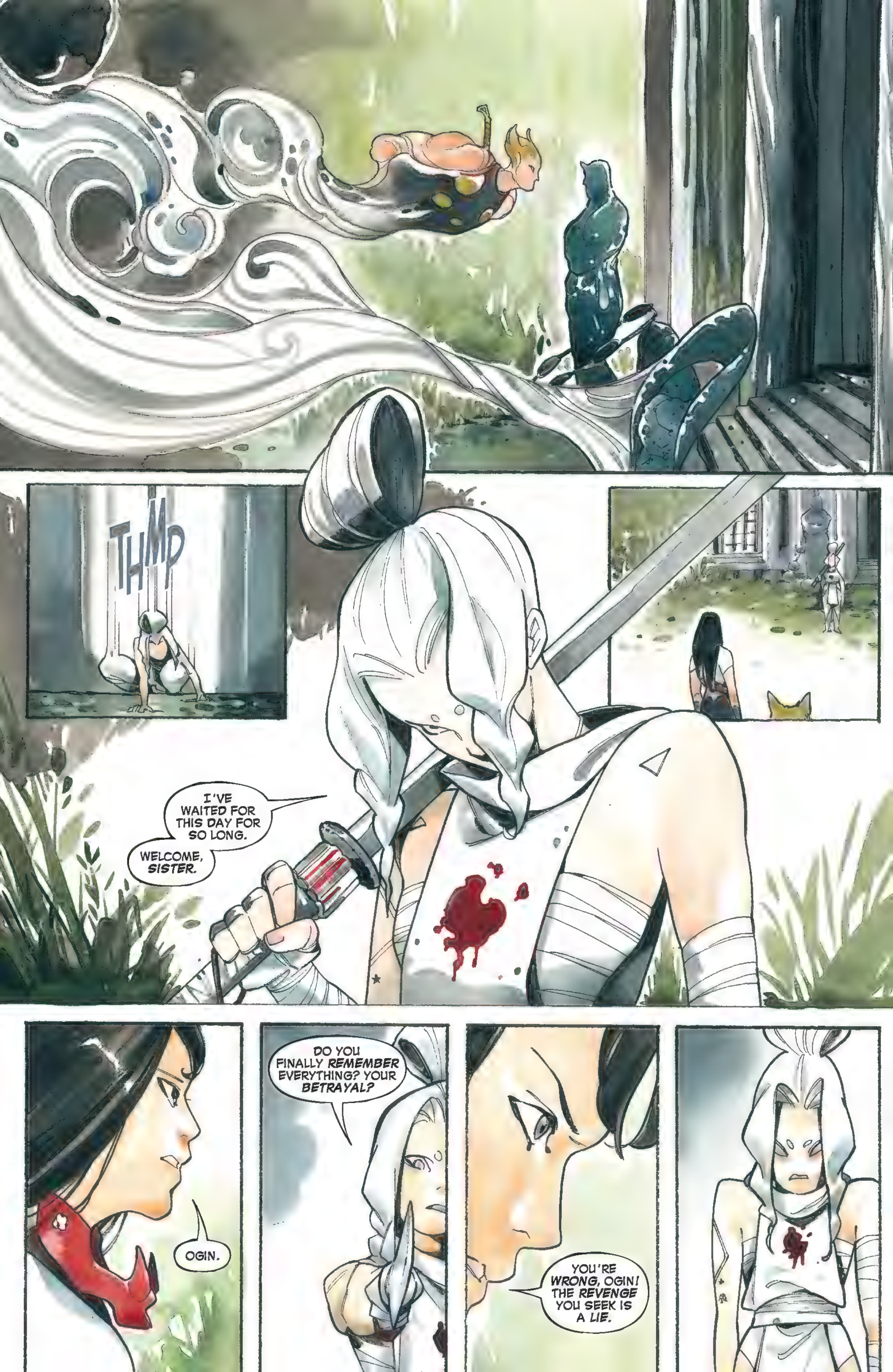

MARIKO
AT LAST, MIYUKI
MARIKO... YOUR SISTER IS LOST. YOU MUST FIND HER.
SAVE HER...
...FOR I COULD NOT.

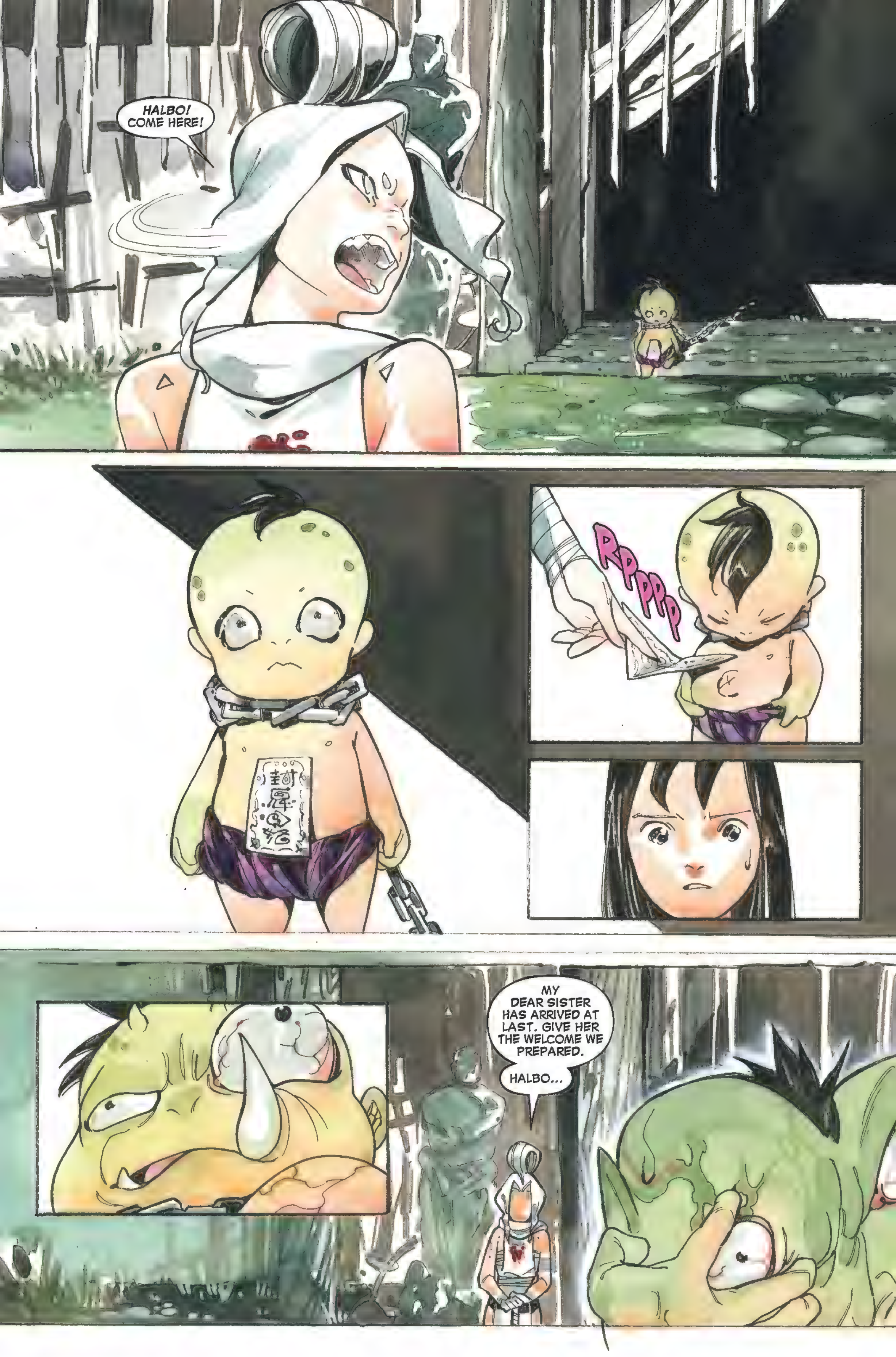

KRACK
MAMA, LOOK!
OGIN! WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? YOU CAN'T *KILL* THINGS FOR FUN!
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT, MAMA. IT'S PRETTY...
I'M SORRY I SHOUTED, OGIN. IT'S MY FAULT. I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO *DO*...
MARIKO, LOOK AFTER YOUR SISTER. I--I HAVE TO...
MARIKO. WHY DOES MOTHER LOVE YOU AND *HATE* ME?
OGIN...

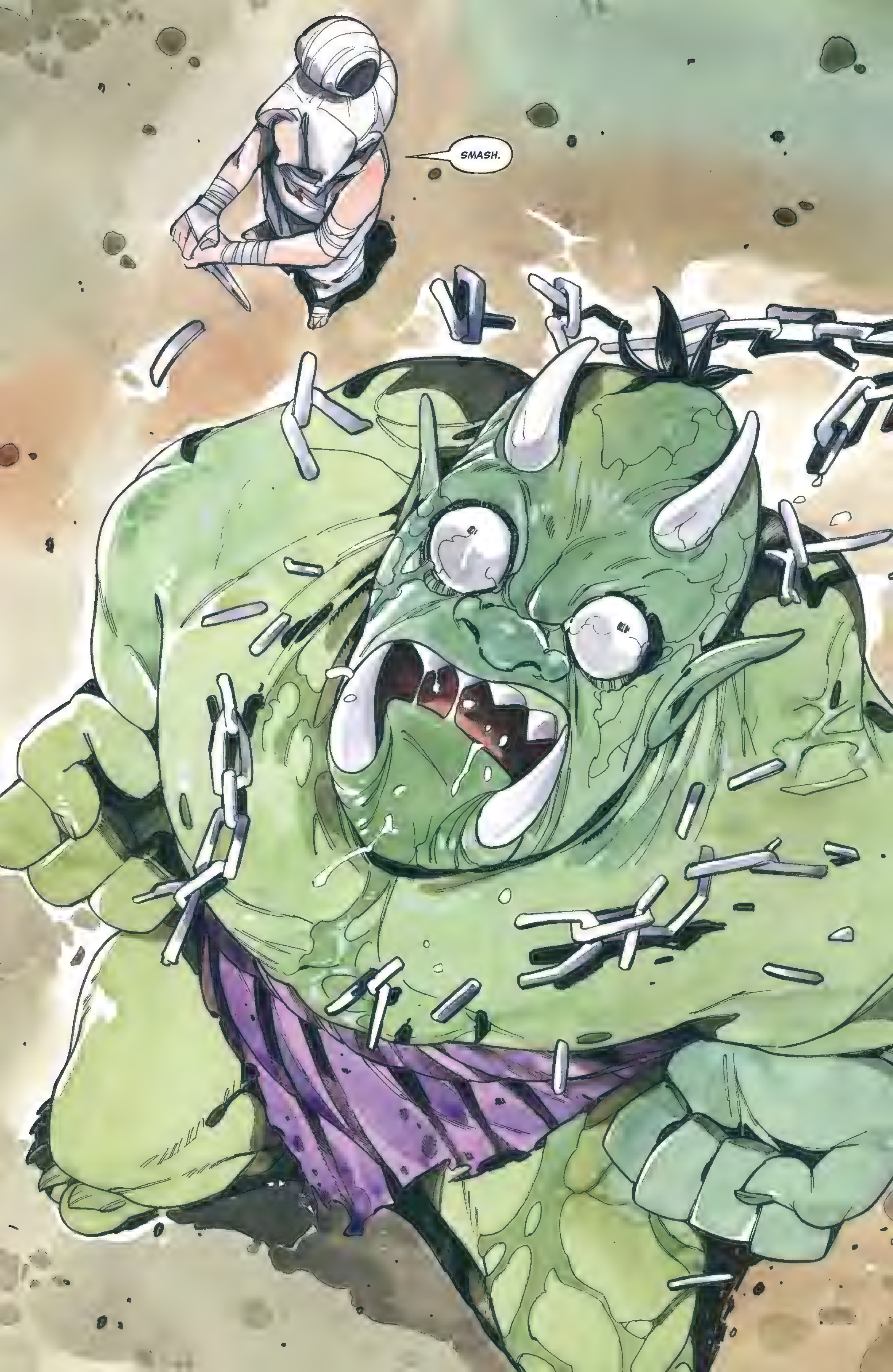

MARIKO. OGIN. MY DAUGHTERS... YOUR MAMA LOVES YOU. BUT I'M SO *TIRED.* I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE.
I CAN'T SAVE YOU.
I'M GOING TO SEE YOUR FATHER.
MAMA! I BROUGHT YOU...
MARIKO! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
N-NO. I-- I *DIDN'T*--
YOU KILLED OUR MOTHER.
I'LL *NEVER* FORGIVE YOU.
I'LL MAKE YOU *PAY* SOMEDAY.
OGIN... MAMA...
I REMEMBER *EVERYTHING...*


THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH. I BLOCKED OUT EVERYTHING-- FORGOT I EVEN HAD A SISTER.
GRANNY MUST HAVE FOUND ME SOON AFTER. SHE TOOK PITY ON ME AND RAISED ME AS HER OWN. AND OGIN...
OGIN THOUGHT I *MURDERED* OUR MOTHER.
IN TRUTH, MOTHER KILLED HERSELF. I DON'T KNOW *WHY*. I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL.
MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER. KNOWING WON'T *CHANGE* ANYTHING.
HEY! YOUR TAIL IS WAGGING! LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE REMEMBERED US!
DON'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR BITING SOSUKE?
OGIN HAS BEEN FULL OF *RAGE* EVER SINCE. HER HATRED *CONSUMES* HER.
YOUR MOTHER, MIYUKI, MUST BELIEVE YOU CAN STILL *SAVE* YOUR SISTER. SHE WANTS YOU TO LIVE NORMAL, HAPPY LIVES.
DOES SHE? THEN WHY KILL HERSELF? NOT TO MAKE US *HAPPY*.
BESIDES, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT NORMAL *IS*--NOT SINCE I STEPPED ON KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN.
PLEASE. TAKE ME TO...
...TO MY SISTER...

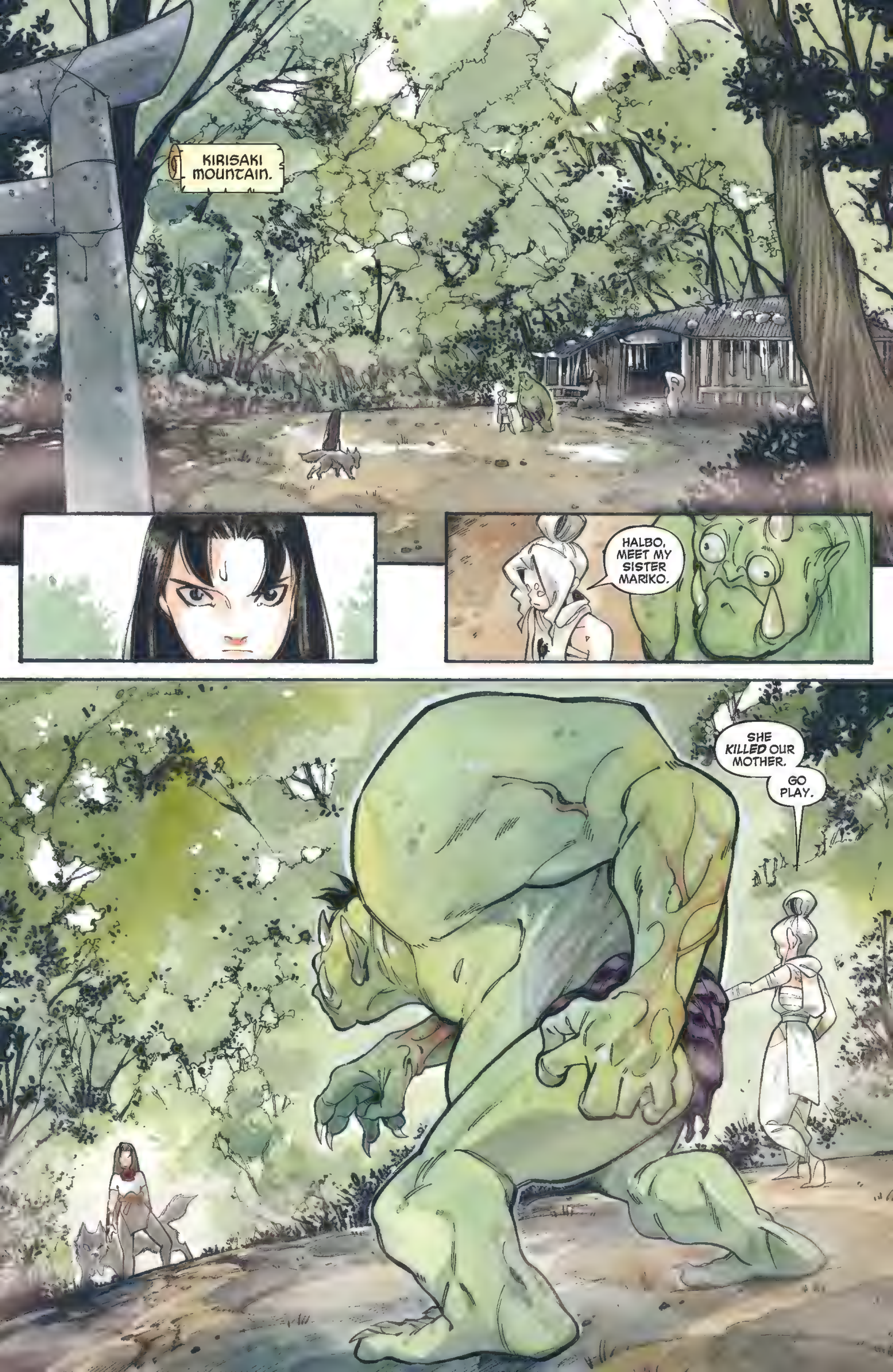

WE'VE UPHELD OUR END OF THE BARGAIN, OGIN. HERE IS MARIKO. UNHARMED AND UNTOUCHED. SHE COMES OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
THANK YOU FOR FINDING MY BROTHER'S HAMMER. WE TAKE OUR LEAVE.

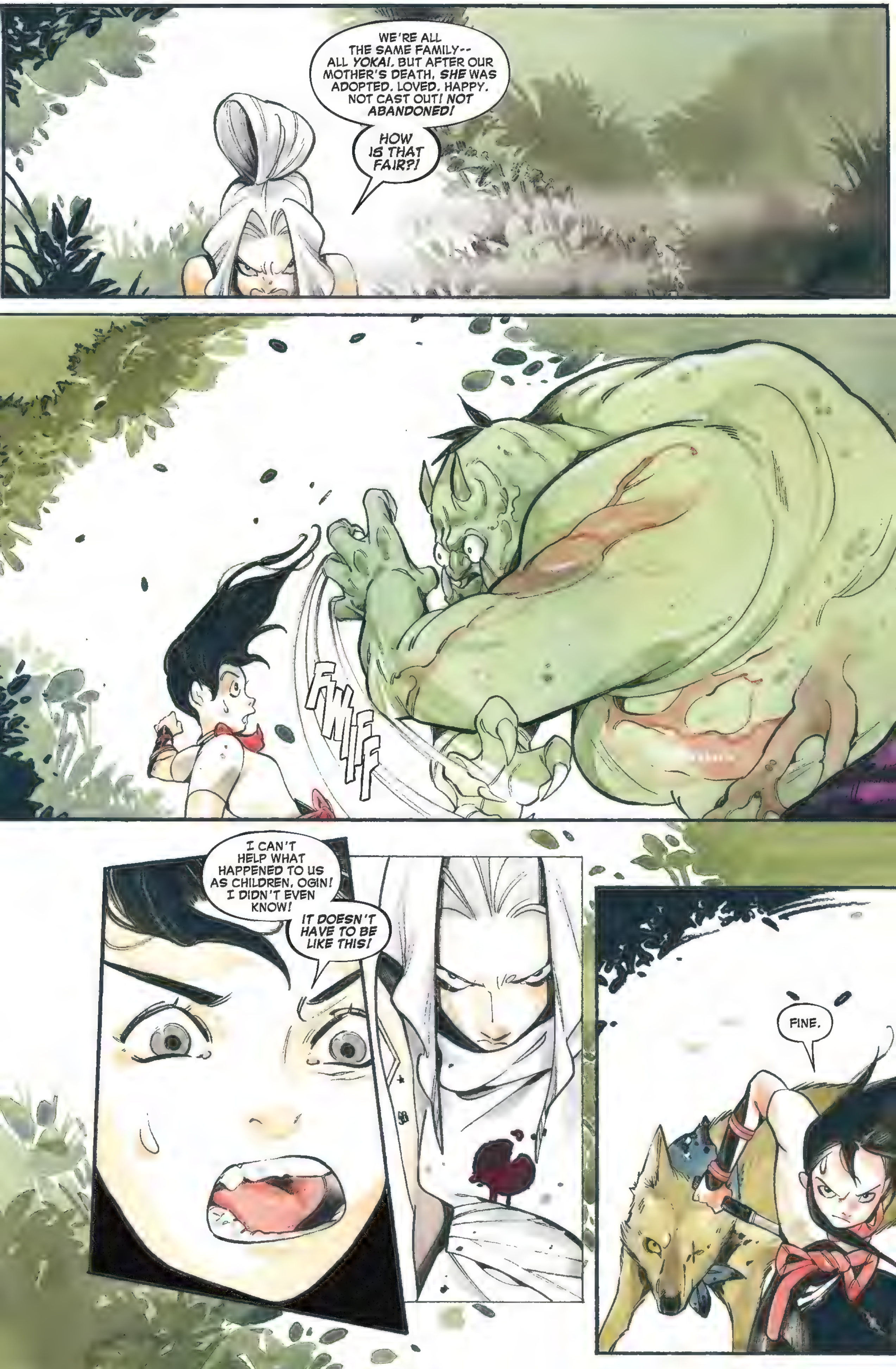

THMP
I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY FOR SO LONG.
WELCOME, *SISTER.*
OGIN.
DO YOU FINALLY *REMEMBER* EVERYTHING? YOUR *BETRAYAL?*
YOU'RE *WRONG,* OGIN! THE *REVENGE* YOU SEEK IS A *LIE.*

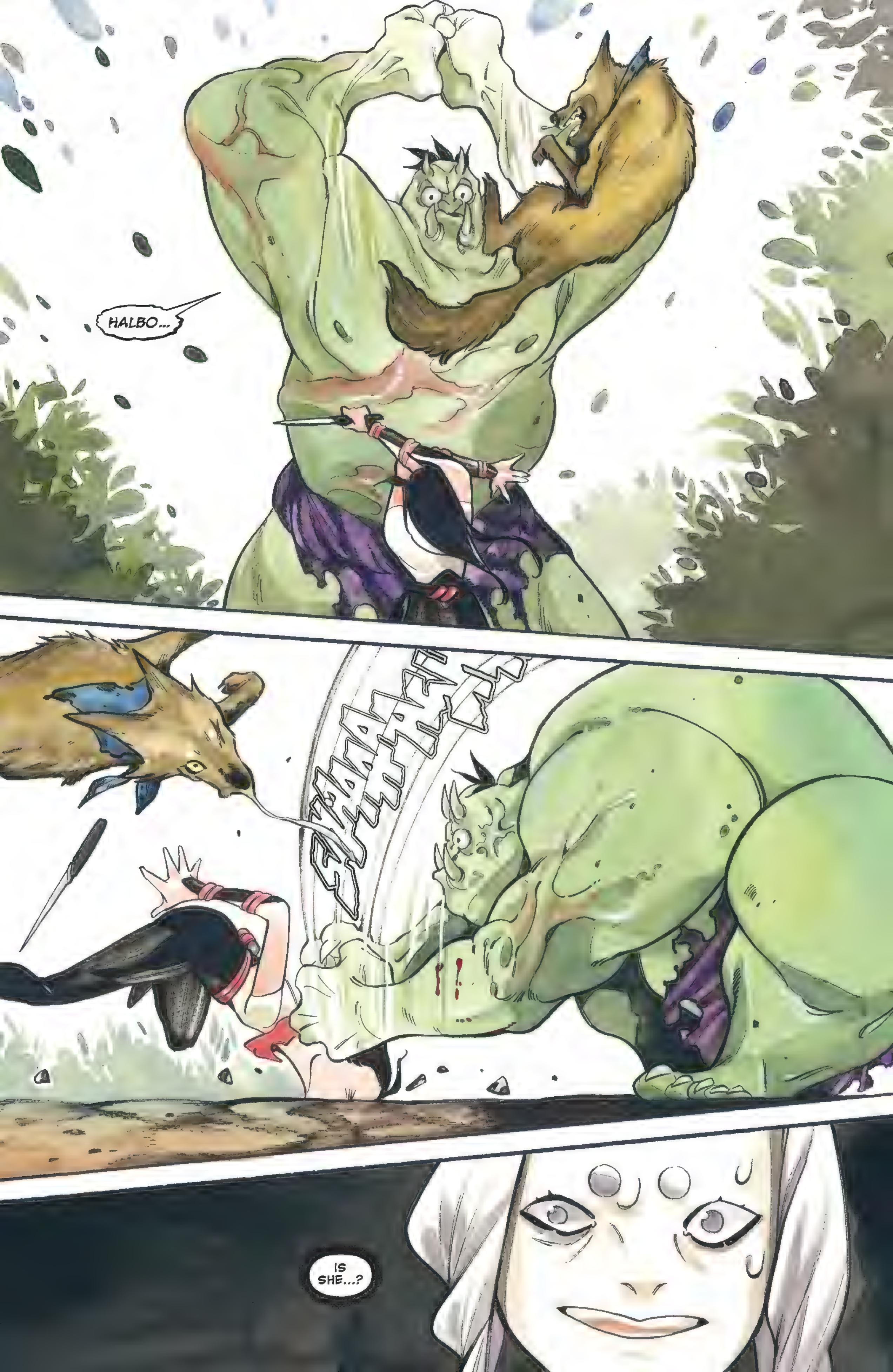

HALBO! COME HERE!
RPPPPP
MY DEAR SISTER HAS ARRIVED AT LAST. GIVE HER THE WELCOME WE PREPARED.
HALBO...

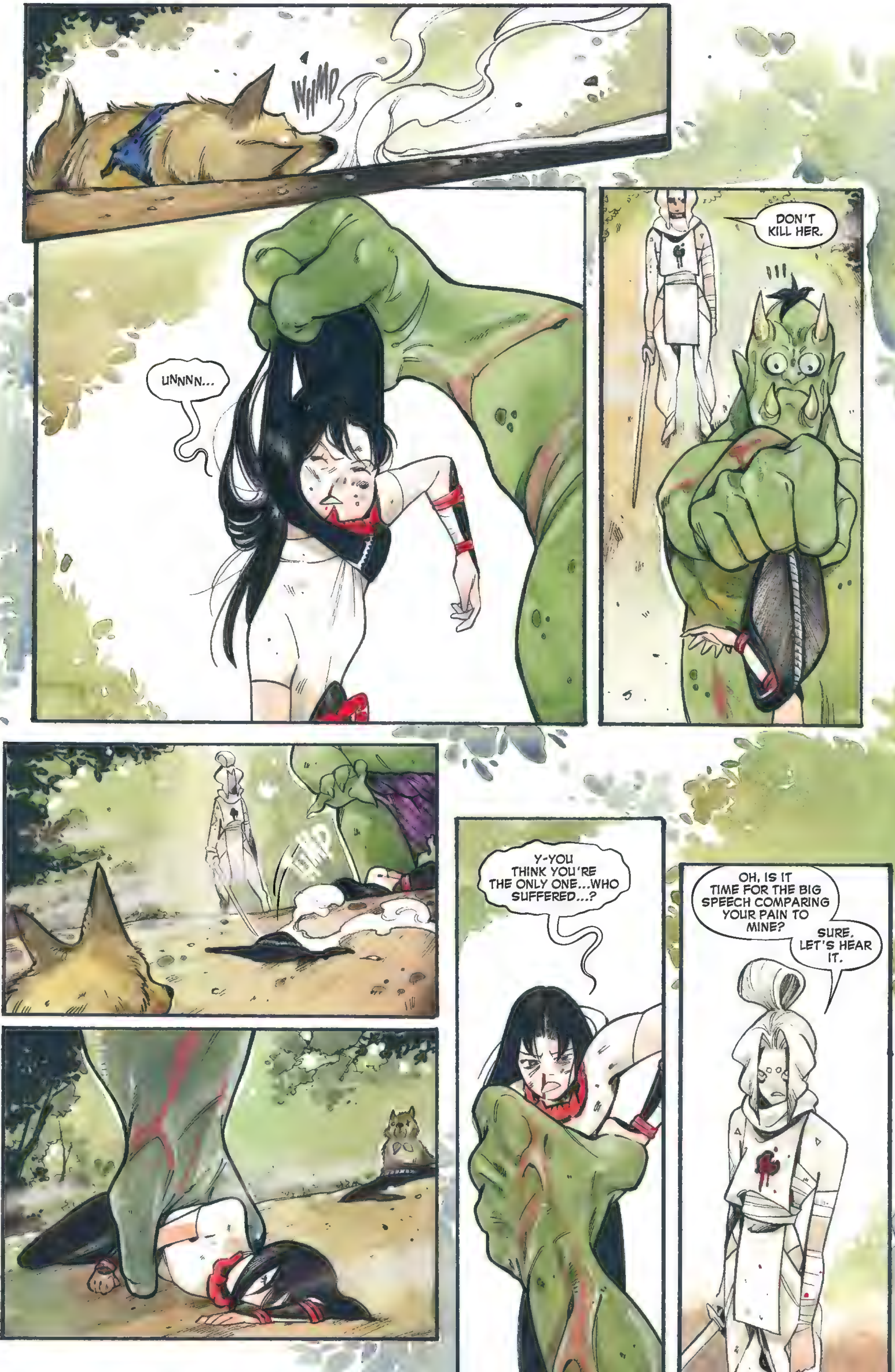

SMASH.

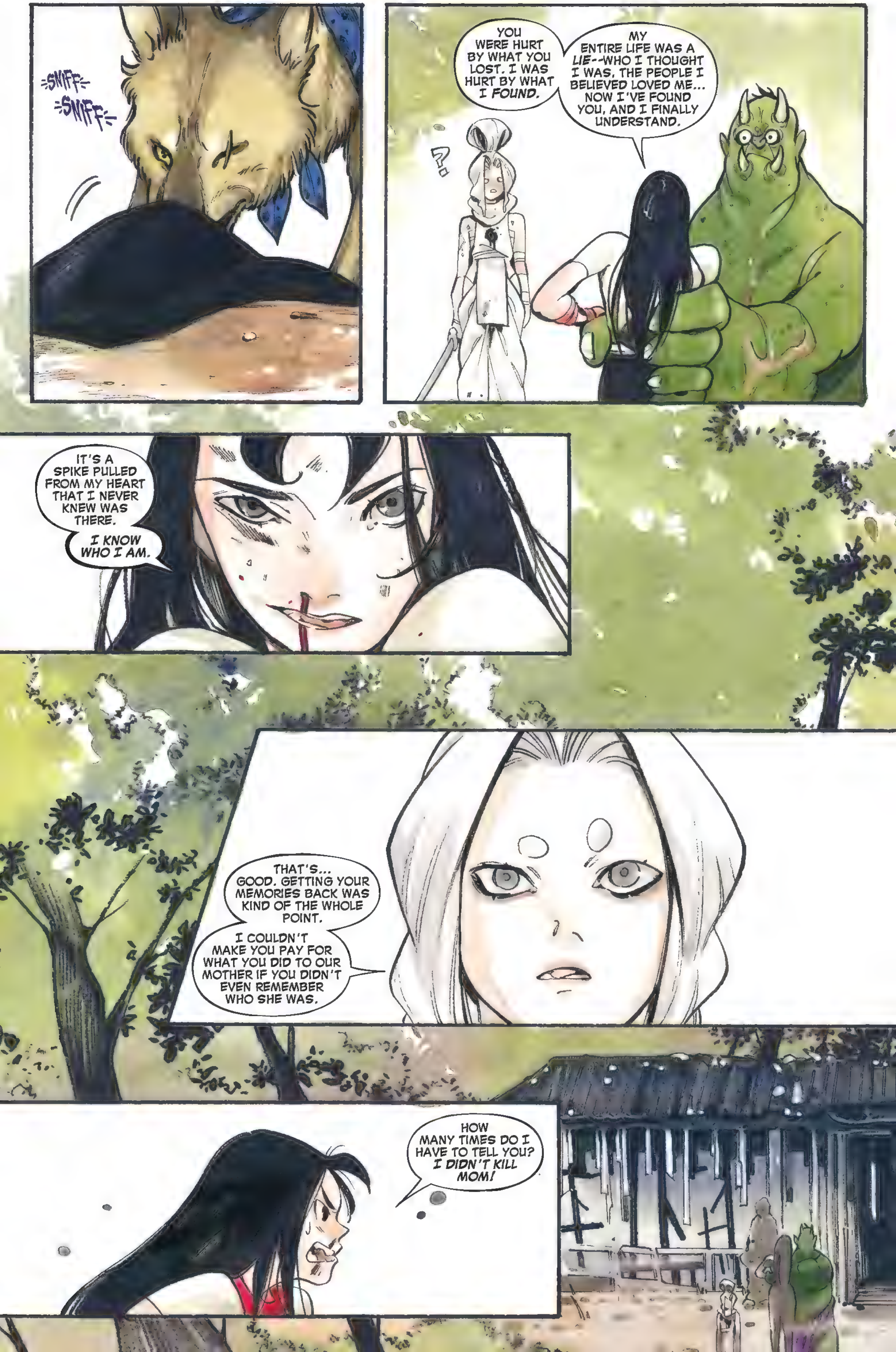
霧咲山
DEMON DAYS
BLOOD FEUD

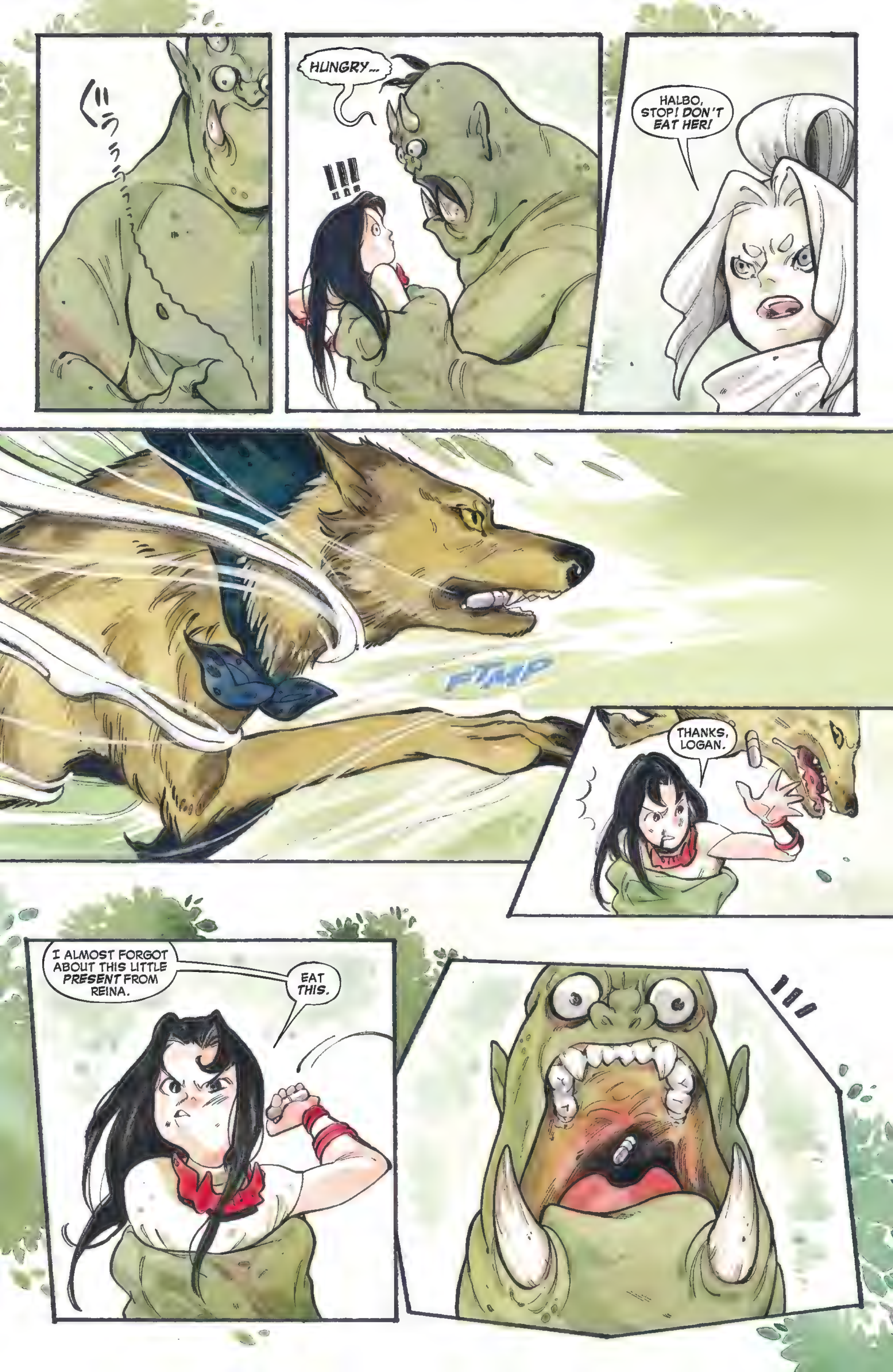

KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN.
HALBO, MEET MY SISTER MARIKO.
SHE *KILLED* OUR MOTHER.
GO PLAY.

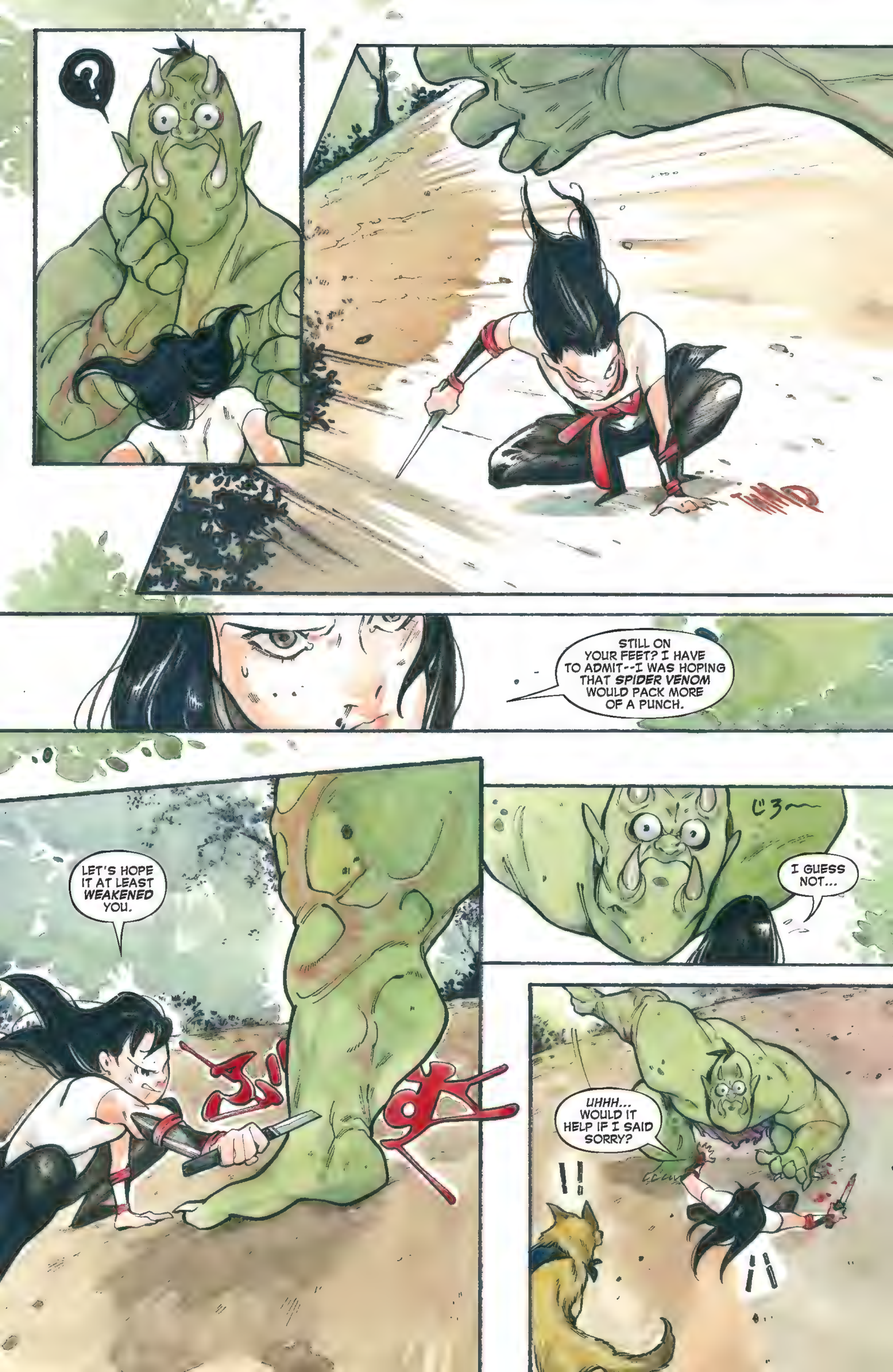

WE'RE ALL THE SAME FAMILY-- ALL *YOKAI*. BUT AFTER OUR MOTHER'S DEATH, *SHE* WAS ADOPTED. LOVED. HAPPY. NOT CAST OUT! *NOT ABANDONED!*
HOW IS THAT FAIR?!
FWIFF
I CAN'T HELP WHAT HAPPENED TO US AS CHILDREN, OGIN! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW!
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS!
FINE.

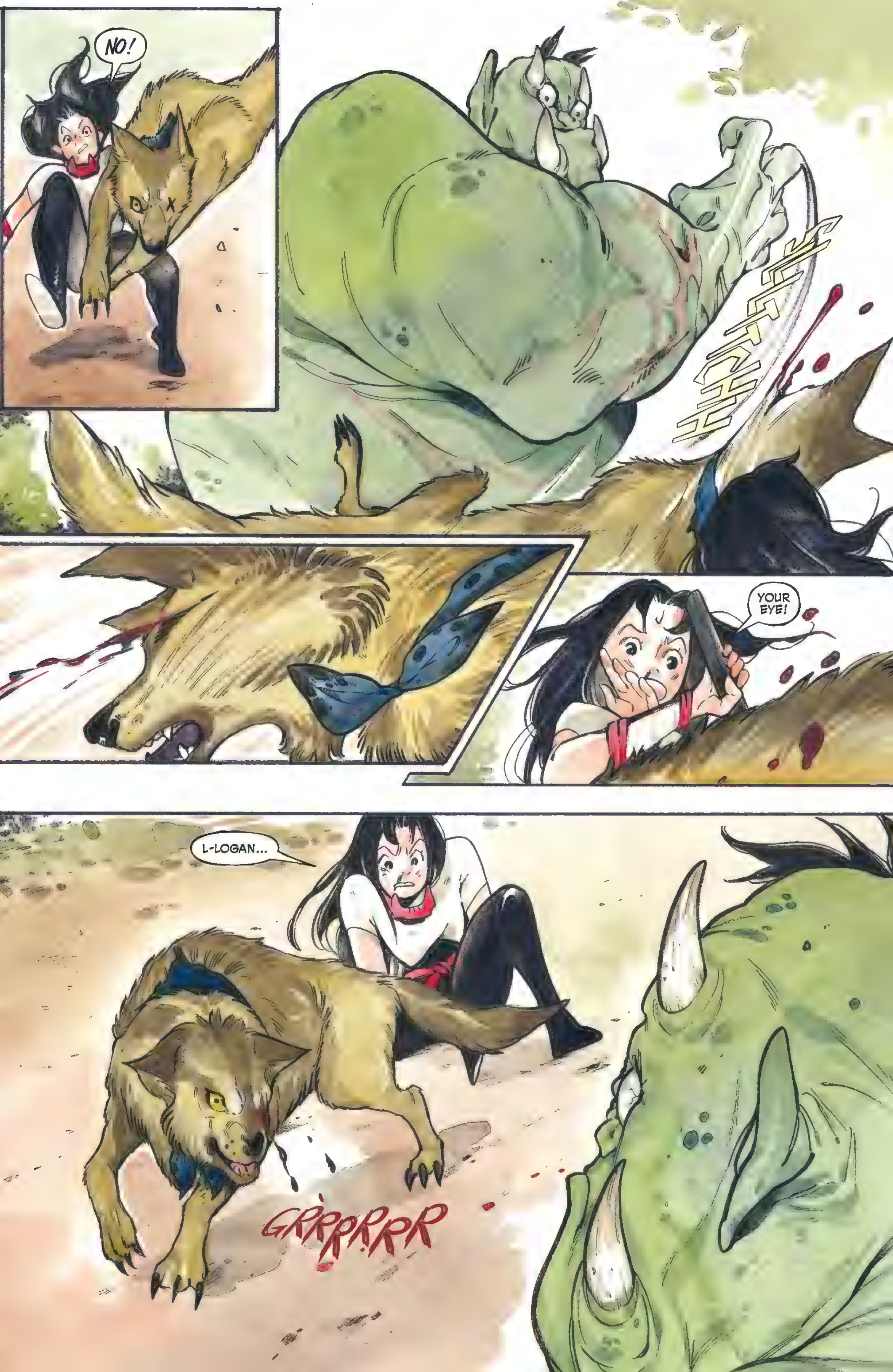

HALBO...
SHAAAAHHHH
IS SHE...?

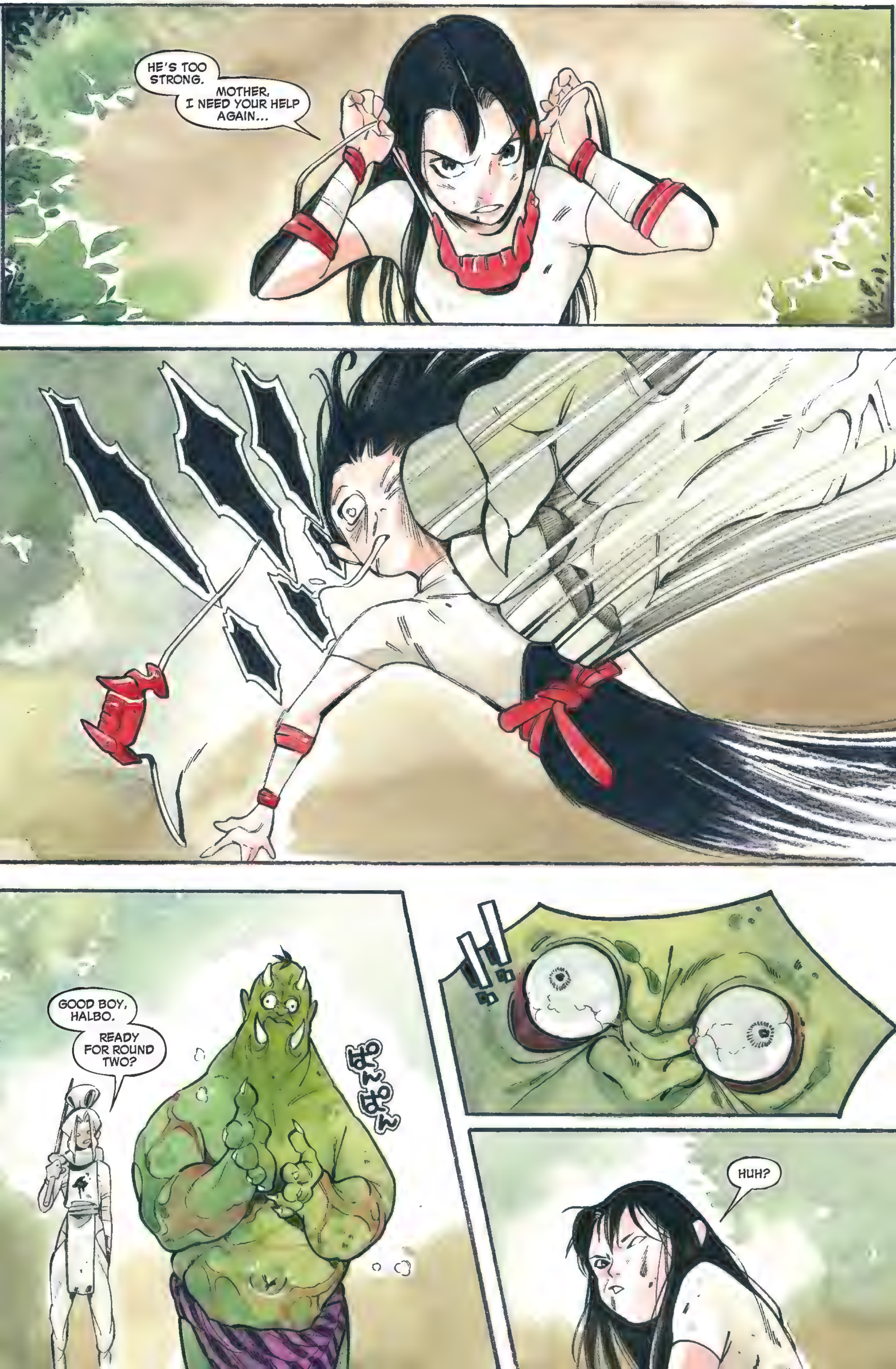

WHMP
UNNNN...
DON'T KILL HER.
Y-YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...WHO SUFFERED...?
OH, IS IT TIME FOR THE BIG SPEECH COMPARING YOUR PAIN TO MINE?
SURE. LET'S HEAR IT.

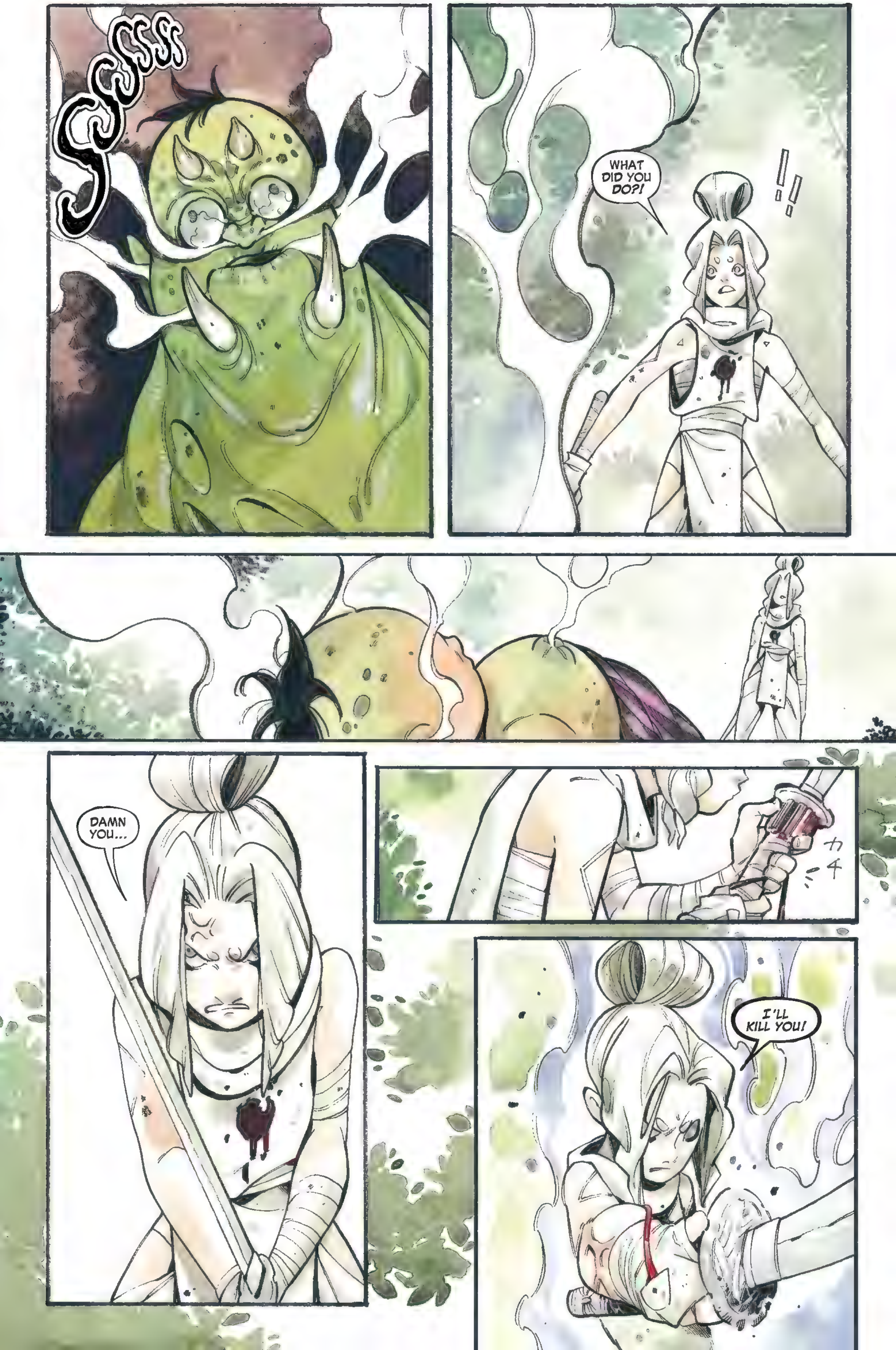

SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU WERE HURT BY WHAT YOU LOST. I WAS HURT BY WHAT I *FOUND.*
MY ENTIRE LIFE WAS A *LIE*--WHO I THOUGHT I WAS, THE PEOPLE I BELIEVED LOVED ME... NOW I'VE FOUND YOU, AND I FINALLY UNDERSTAND.
?
IT'S A SPIKE PULLED FROM MY HEART THAT I NEVER KNEW WAS THERE.
I KNOW WHO *I AM.*
THAT'S... GOOD. GETTING YOUR MEMORIES BACK WAS KIND OF THE WHOLE POINT.
I COULDN'T MAKE YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID TO OUR MOTHER IF YOU DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO SHE WAS.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? *I DIDN'T KILL MOM!*

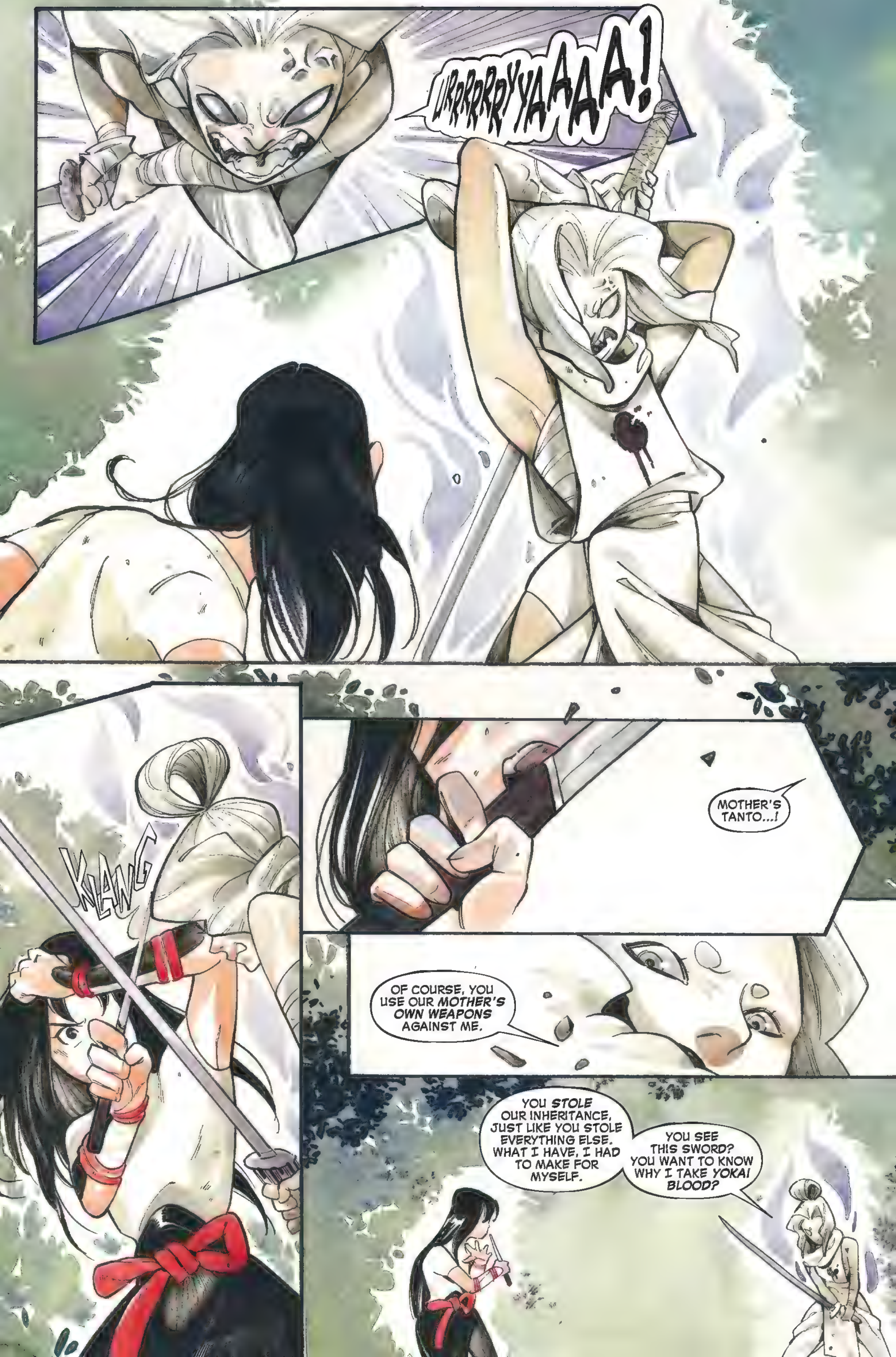

ぐううう…
HUNGRY...
!!!
HALBO, STOP! DON'T EAT HER!
FTMP
THANKS, LOGAN.
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THIS LITTLE PRESENT FROM REINA.
EAT THIS.
!!!

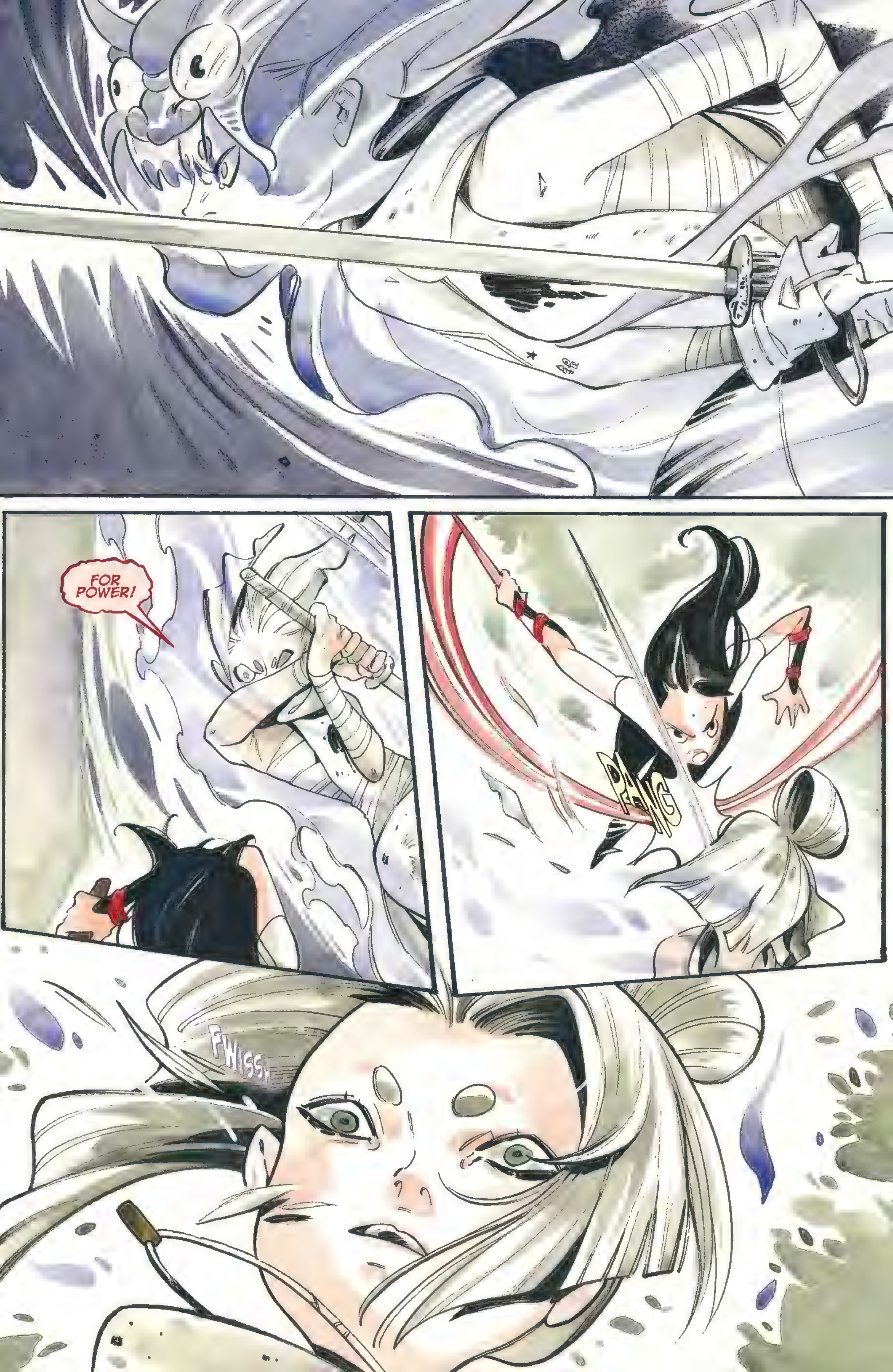

?
THMP
STILL ON YOUR FEET? I HAVE TO ADMIT--I WAS HOPING THAT *SPIDER VENOM* WOULD PACK MORE OF A PUNCH.
LET'S HOPE IT AT LEAST *WEAKENED* YOU.
ぶ す
じろ～
I GUESS NOT...
UHHH... WOULD IT HELP IF I SAID SORRY?
!!
!!

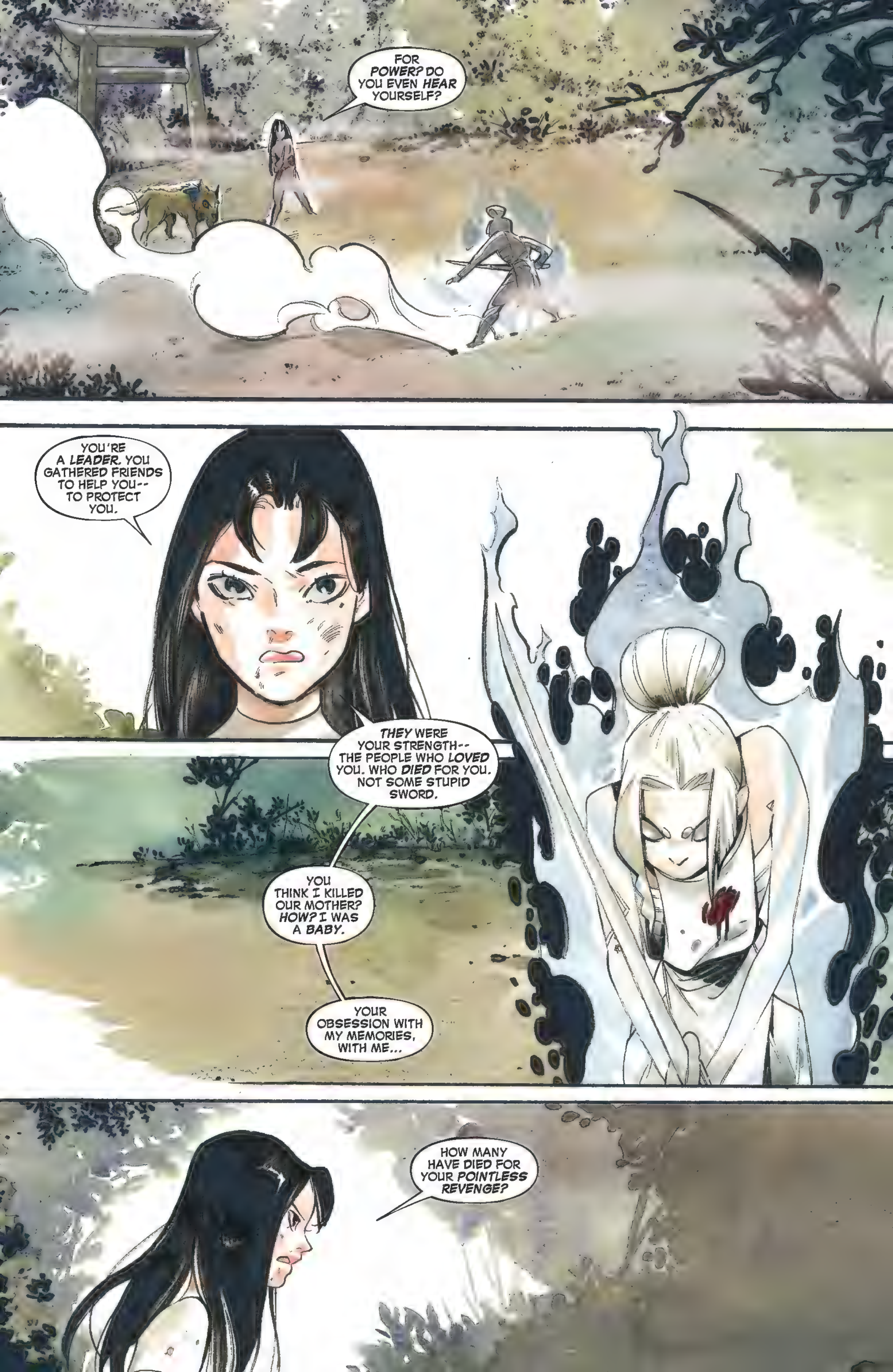

NO!
SLCCTCHH
YOUR EYE!
L-LOGAN...
GRRRRRR

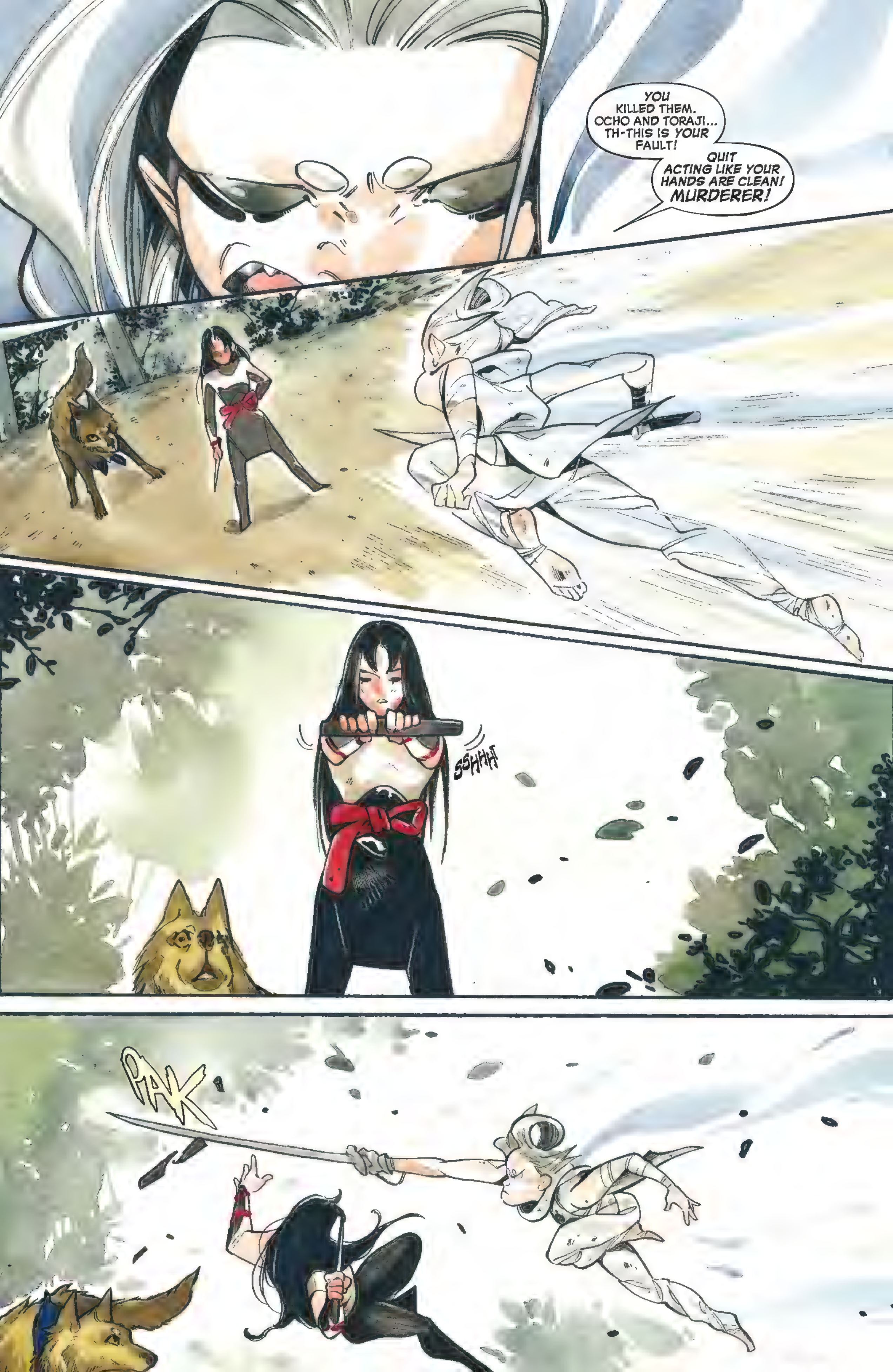

HE'S TOO STRONG.
MOTHER, I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN...
GOOD BOY, HALBO.
READY FOR ROUND TWO?
ぱんぱん
!!
HUH?

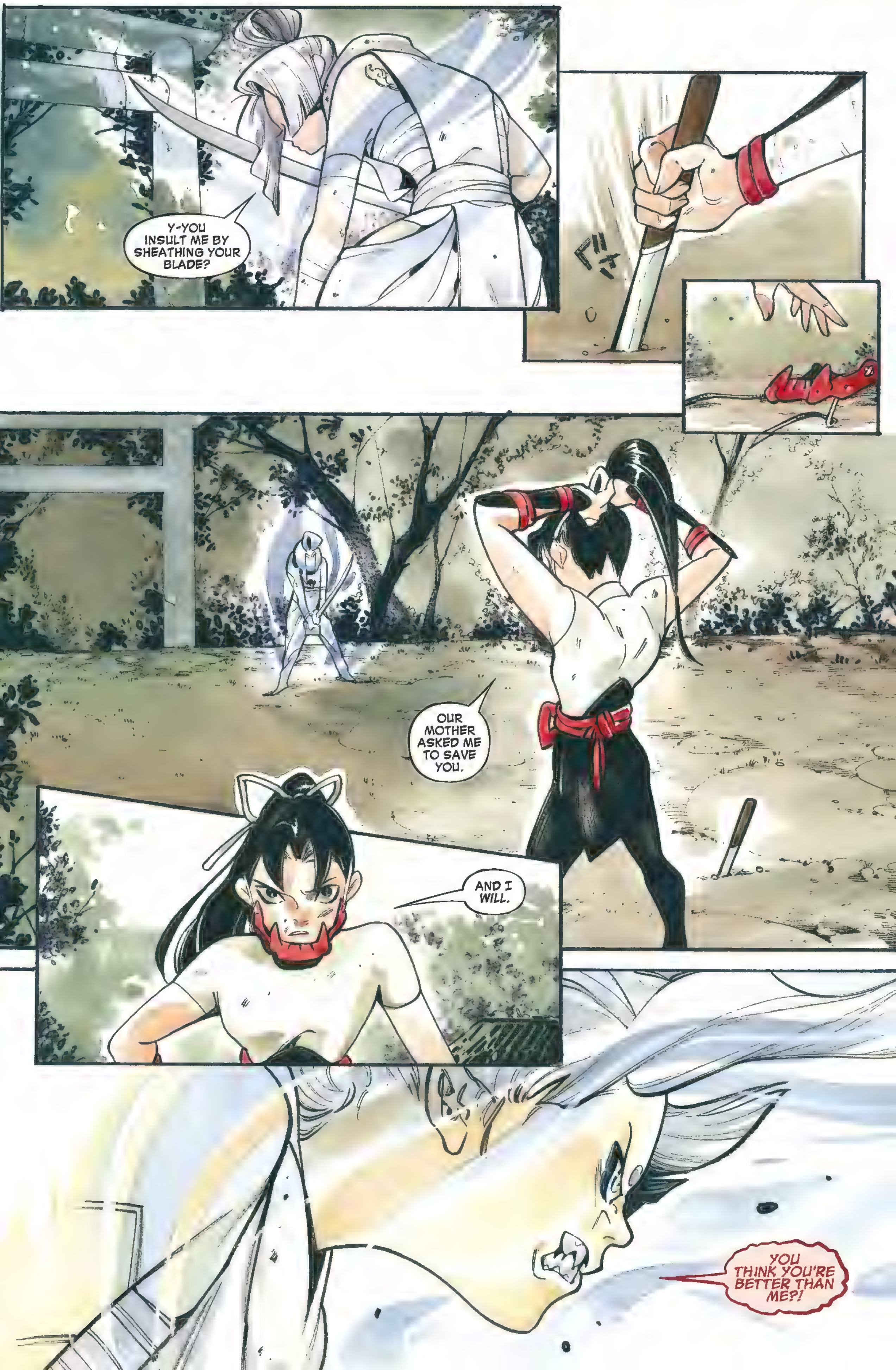

SSSSSS
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
!!
DAMN YOU...
カチ
I'LL KILL YOU!

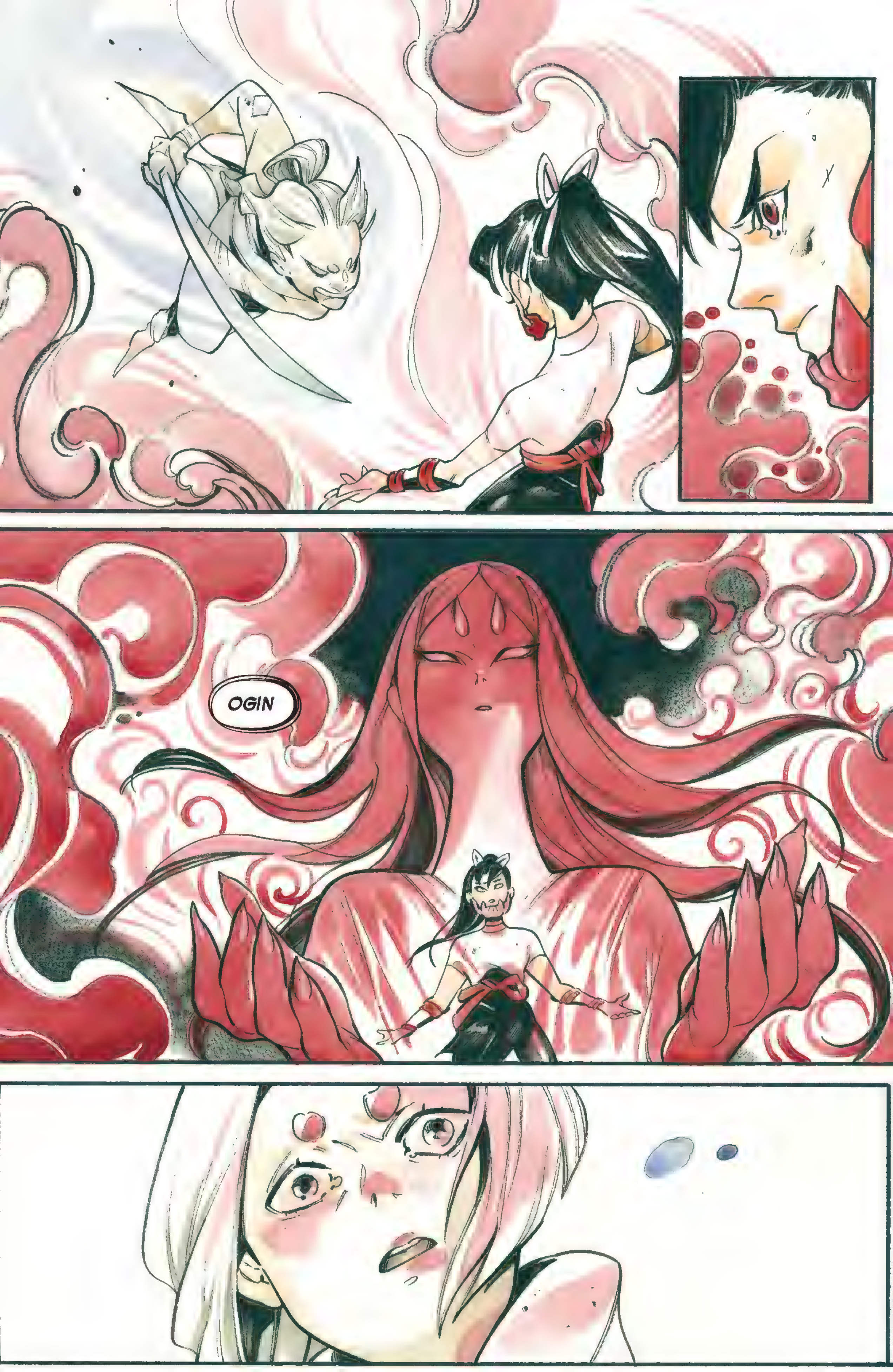

URRRRRYYAAAA!
KLANG
MOTHER'S TANTO...!
OF COURSE, YOU USE OUR *MOTHER'S OWN WEAPONS* AGAINST ME.
YOU *STOLE* OUR INHERITANCE, JUST LIKE YOU STOLE EVERYTHING ELSE. WHAT I HAVE, I HAD TO MAKE FOR MYSELF.
YOU SEE THIS SWORD? YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I TAKE *YOKAI BLOOD?*

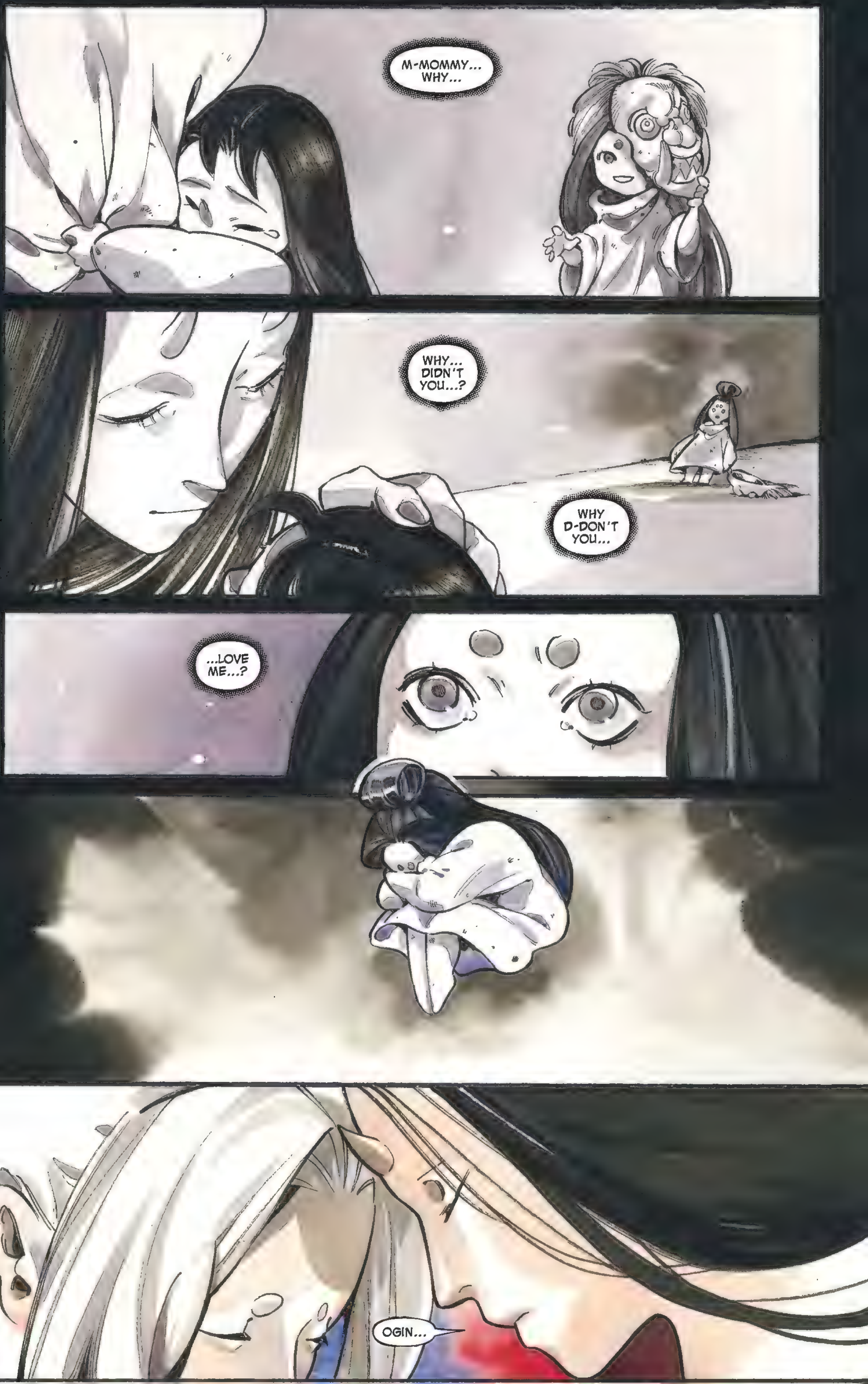

FOR POWER!
PANG
FWISS..

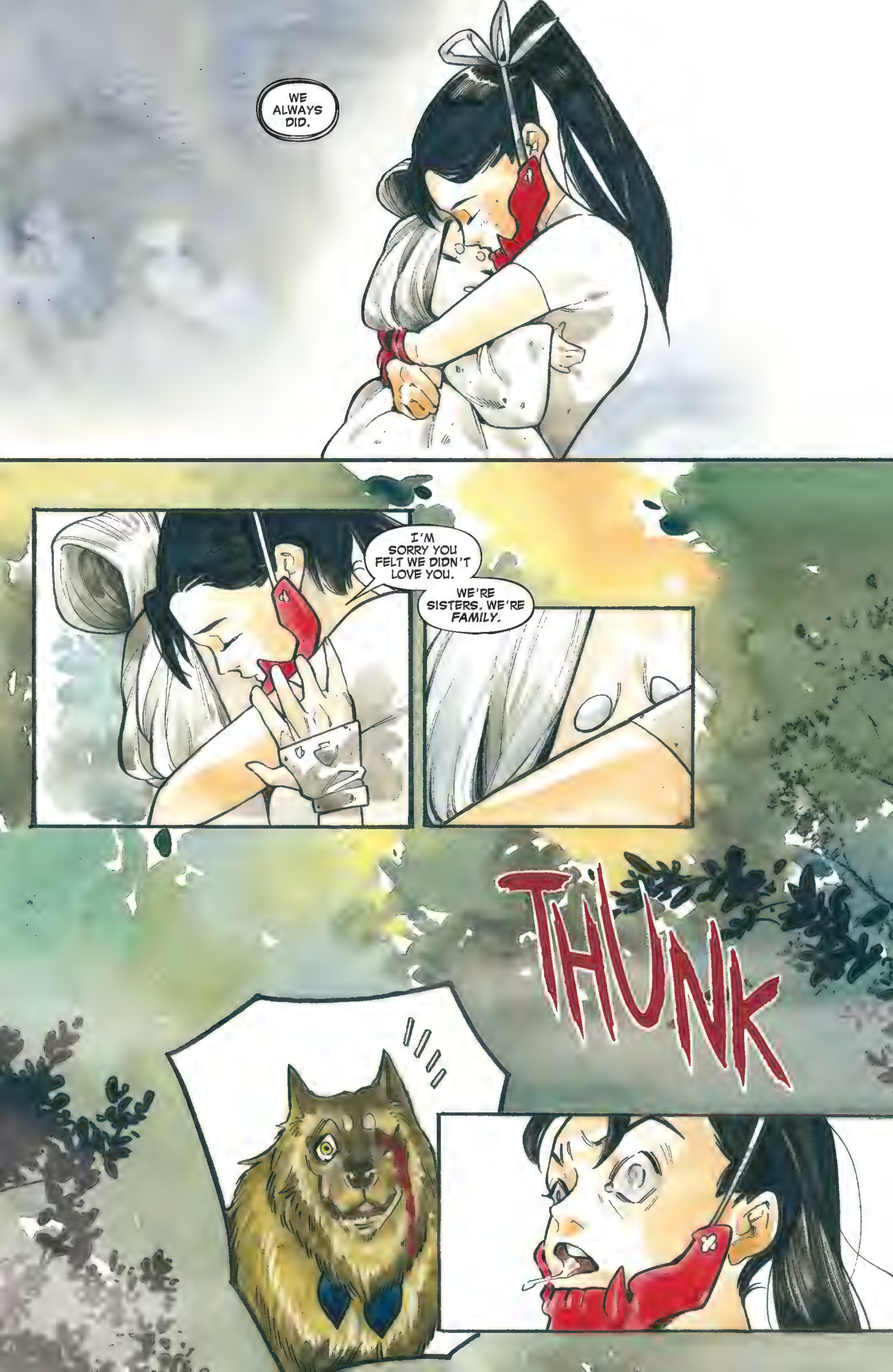

FOR *POWER?* DO YOU EVEN *HEAR* YOURSELF?
YOU'RE A *LEADER.* YOU GATHERED FRIENDS TO HELP YOU-- TO PROTECT YOU.
THEY WERE YOUR STRENGTH-- THE PEOPLE WHO *LOVED* YOU. WHO *DIED* FOR YOU. NOT SOME STUPID SWORD.
YOU THINK I KILLED OUR MOTHER? *HOW?* I WAS A *BABY.*
YOUR OBSESSION WITH MY MEMORIES, WITH ME...
HOW MANY HAVE DIED FOR YOUR *POINTLESS REVENGE?*

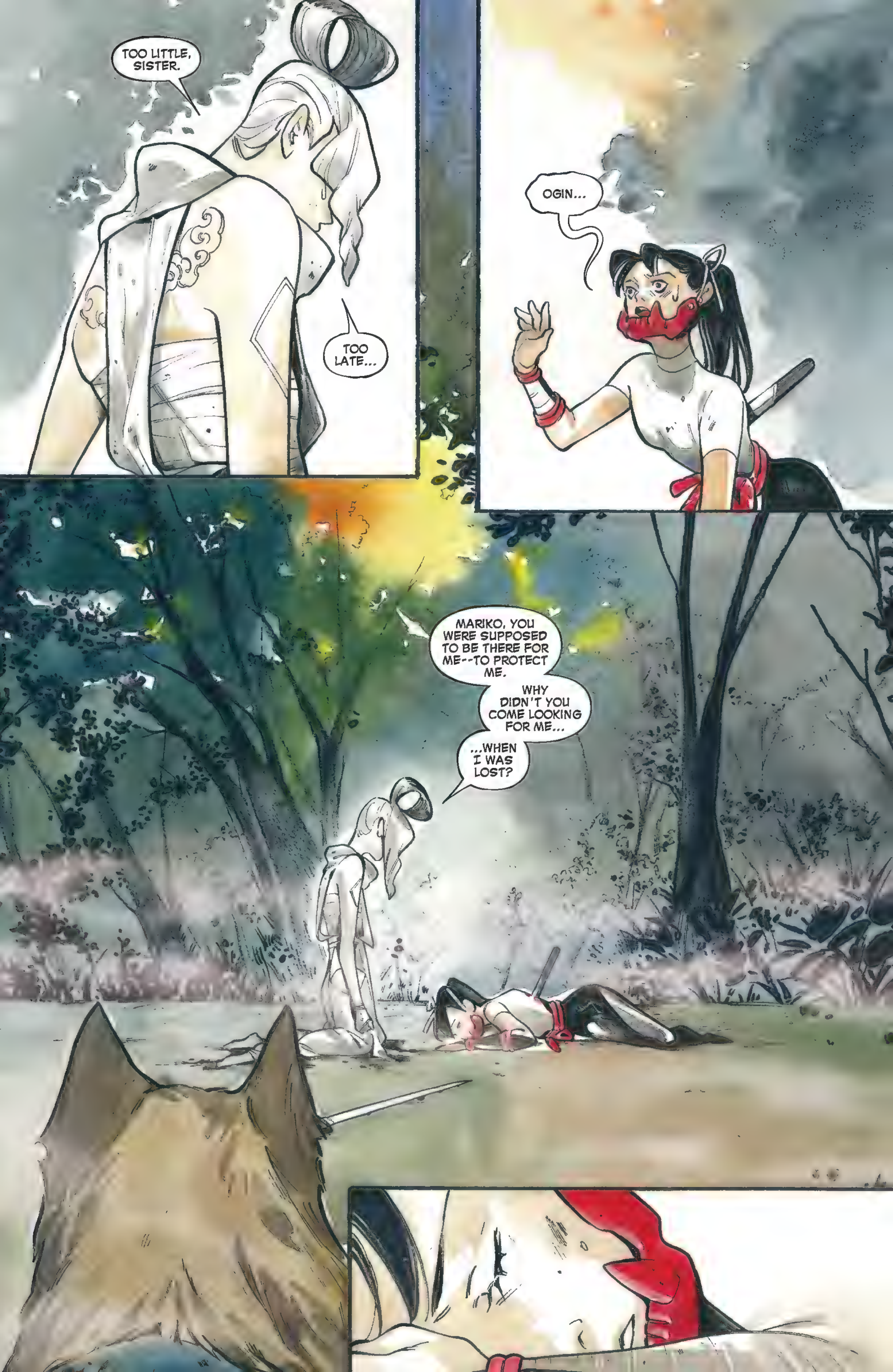

YOU KILLED THEM. OCHO AND TORAJI... TH-THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT!
QUIT ACTING LIKE YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN! ***MURDERER!***
SSHHHT
PIAK

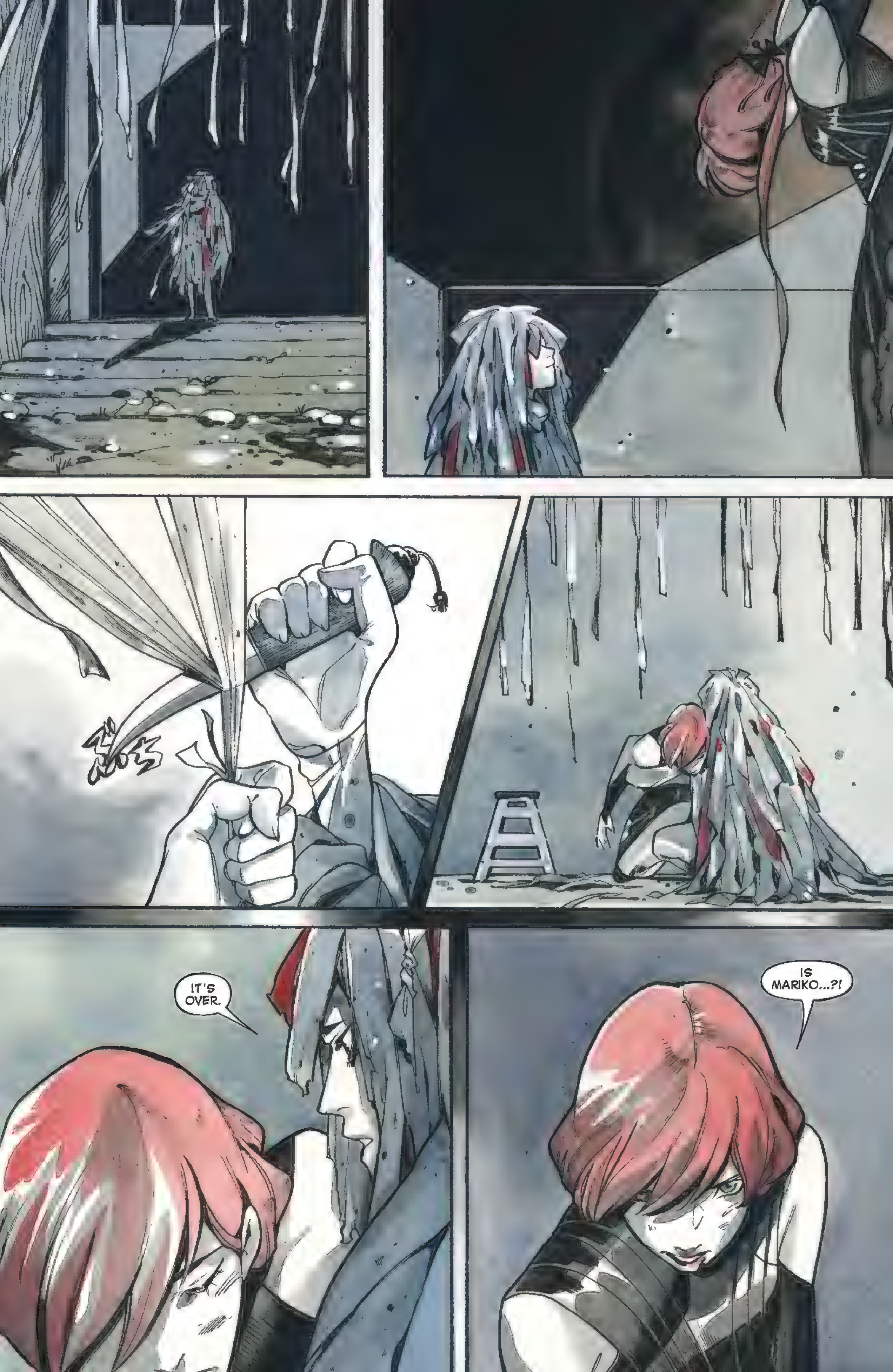

Y-YOU INSULT ME BY SHEATHING YOUR BLADE?
OUR MOTHER ASKED ME TO SAVE YOU.
AND I WILL.
YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME?!

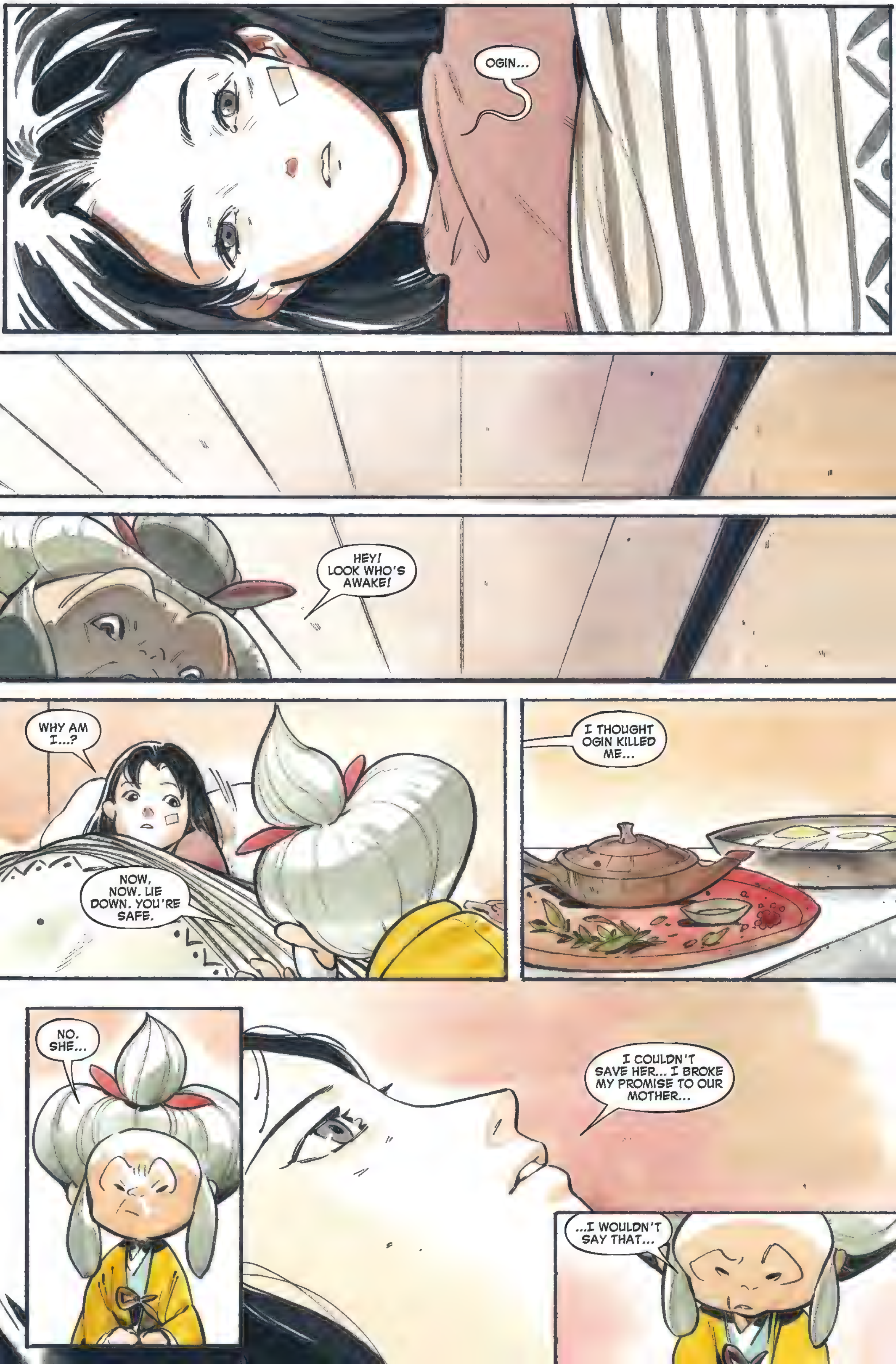

OGIN

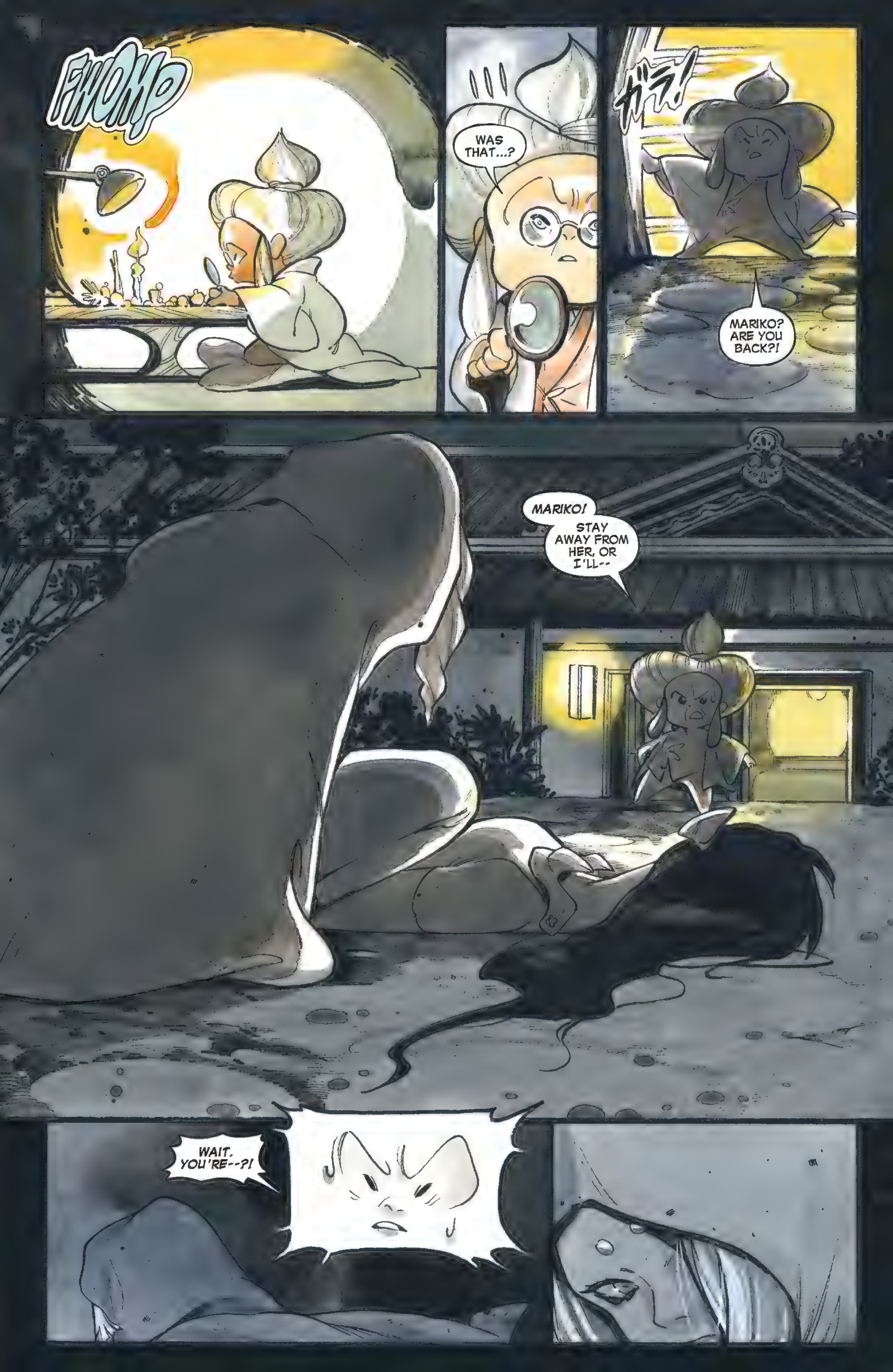

M-MOMMY... WHY...
WHY... DIDN'T YOU...?
WHY D-DON'T YOU...
...LOVE ME...?
OGIN...

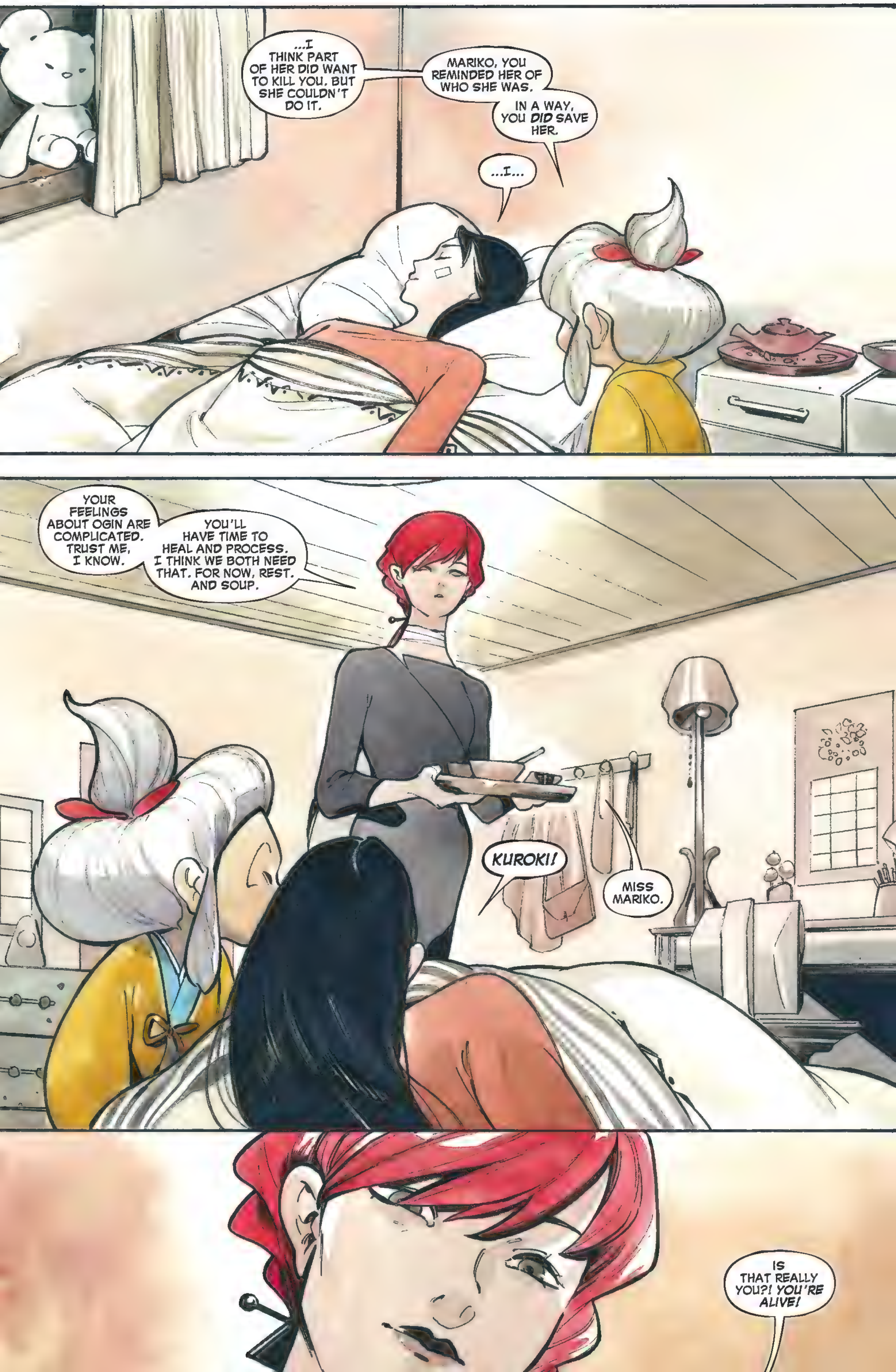

WE ALWAYS DID.
I'M SORRY YOU FELT WE DIDN'T LOVE YOU.
WE'RE SISTERS. WE'RE *FAMILY.*
THUNK

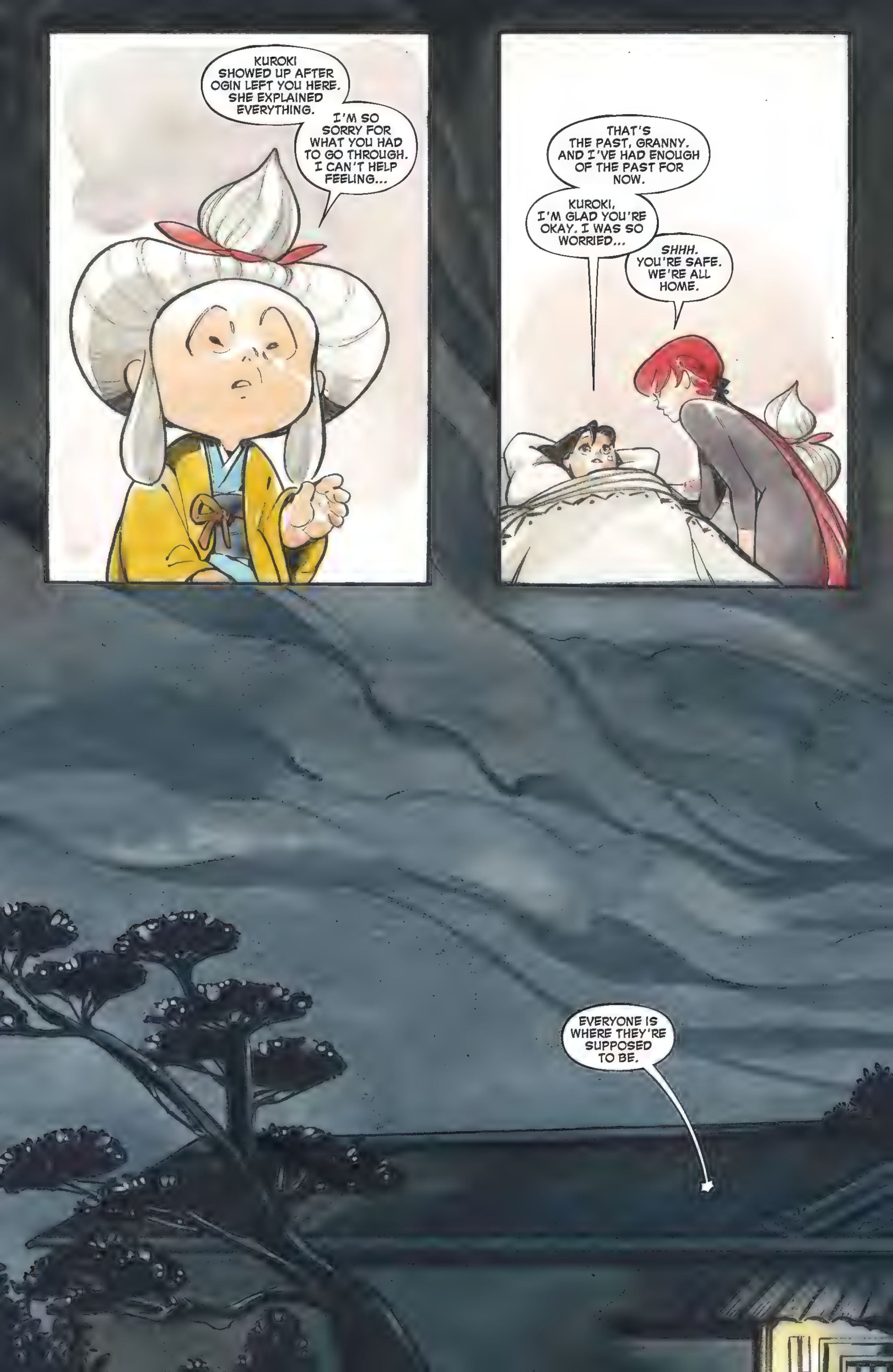

TOO LITTLE, SISTER.
TOO LATE...
OGIN...
MARIKO, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE FOR ME--TO PROTECT ME.
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME LOOKING FOR ME...
...WHEN I WAS LOST?

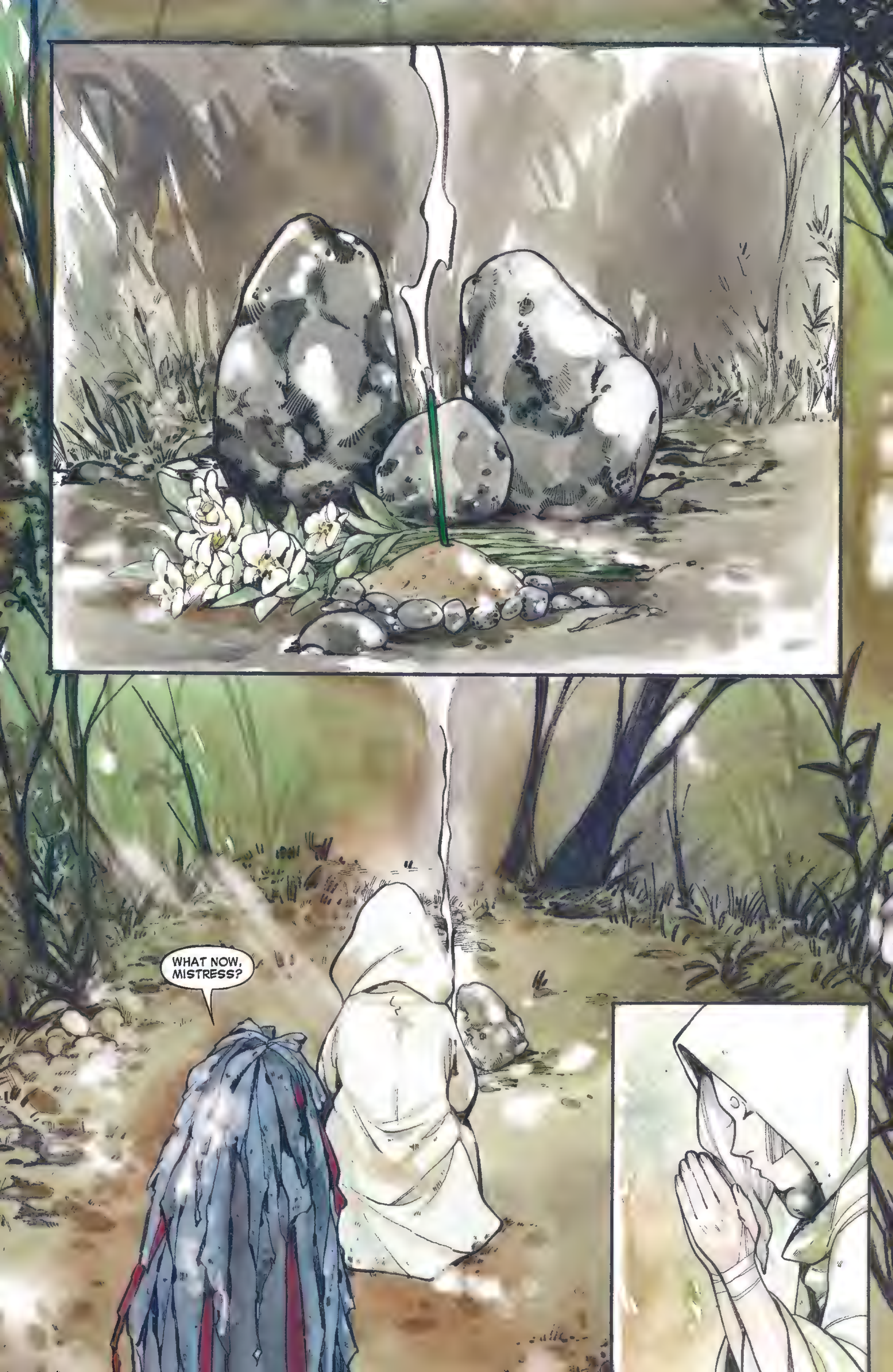

IT'S OVER.
IS MARIKO...?!

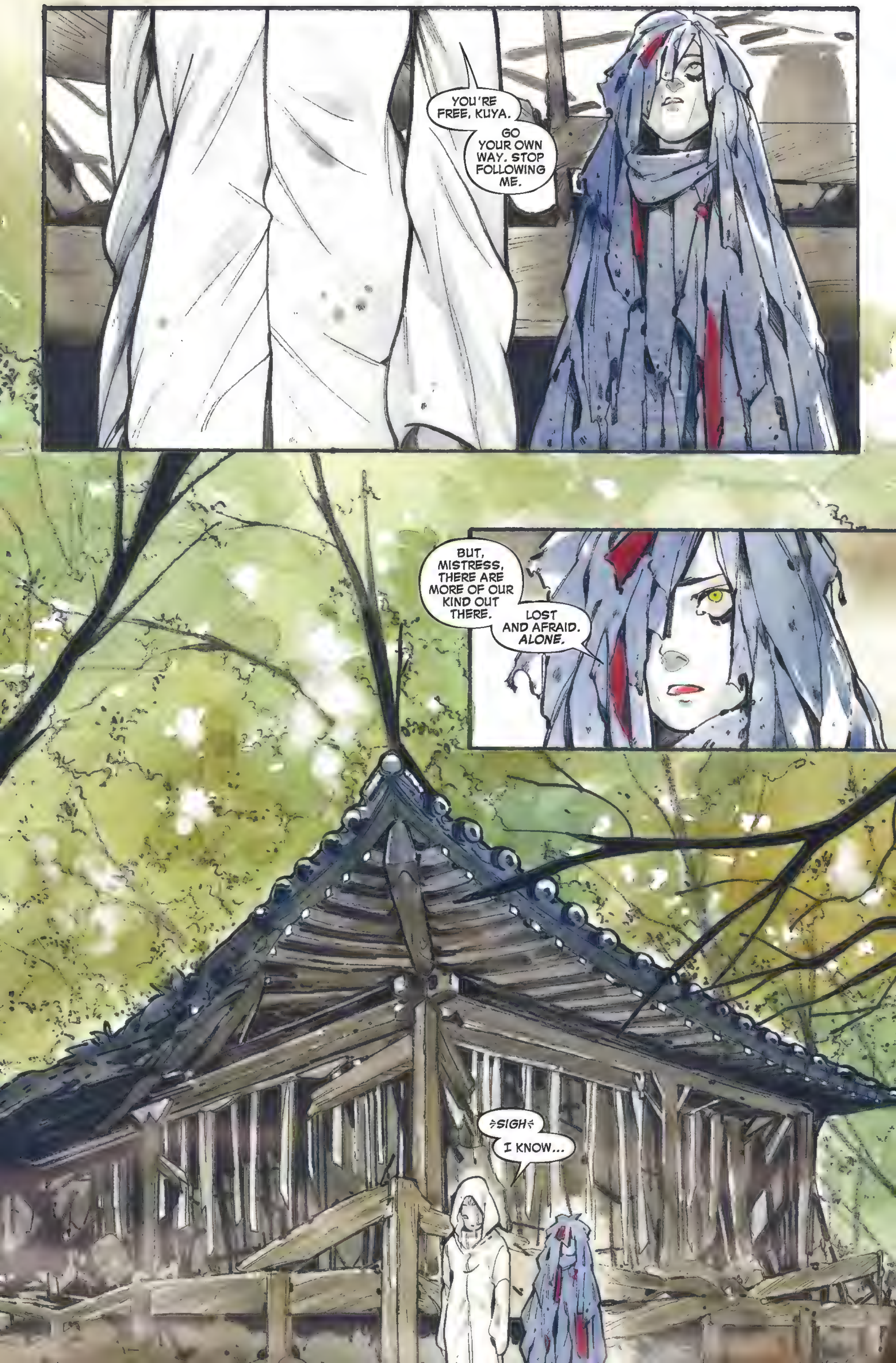

OGIN...
HEY! LOOK WHO'S AWAKE!
WHY AM I...?
NOW, NOW. LIE DOWN. YOU'RE SAFE.
I THOUGHT OGIN KILLED ME...
NO. SHE...
I COULDN'T SAVE HER... I BROKE MY PROMISE TO OUR MOTHER...
...I WOULDN'T SAY THAT...

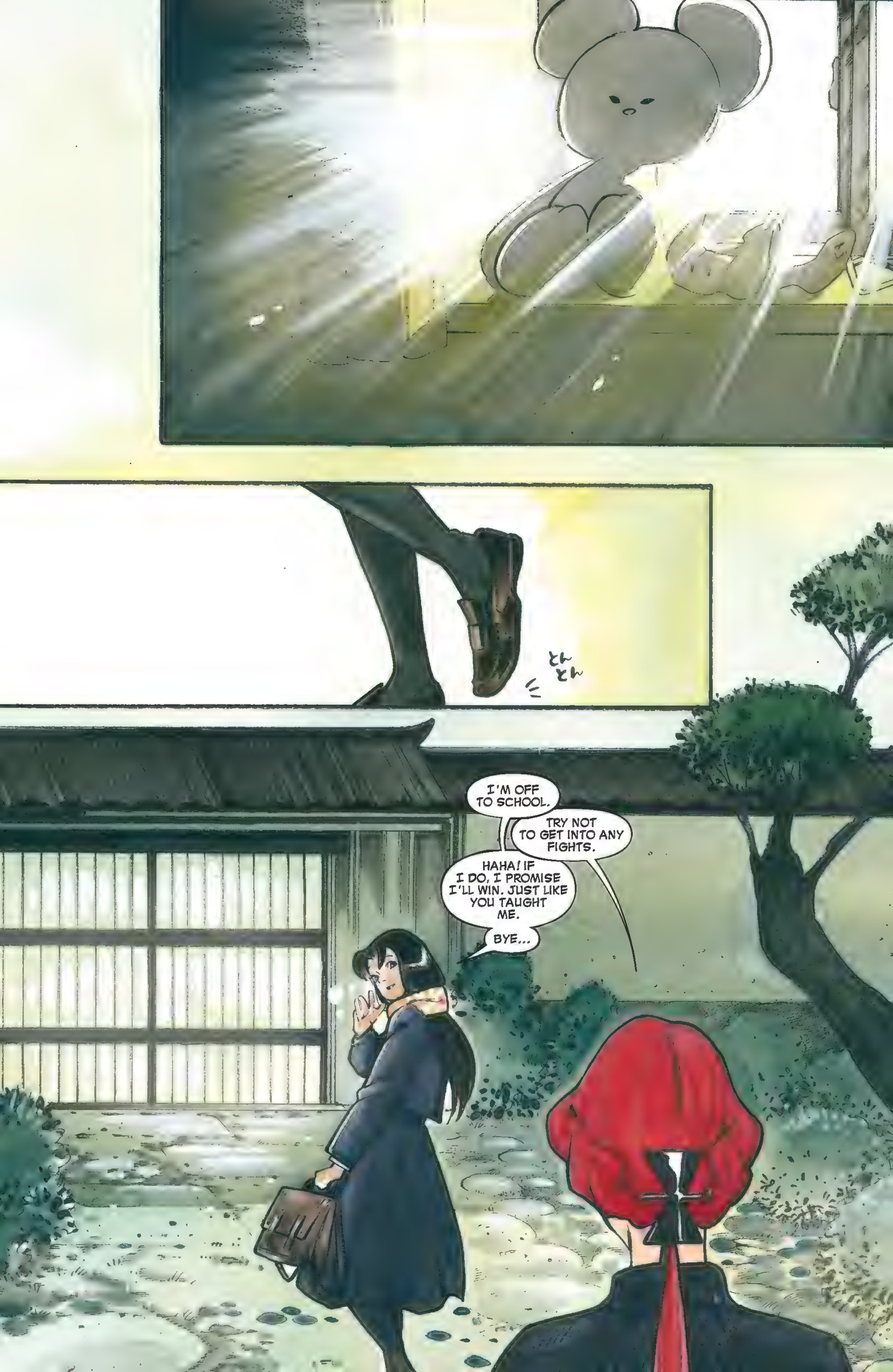

FWOMP
WAS THAT...?
ガラ!
MARIKO? ARE YOU BACK?!
MARIKO! STAY AWAY FROM HER, OR I'LL--
WAIT. YOU'RE--?!

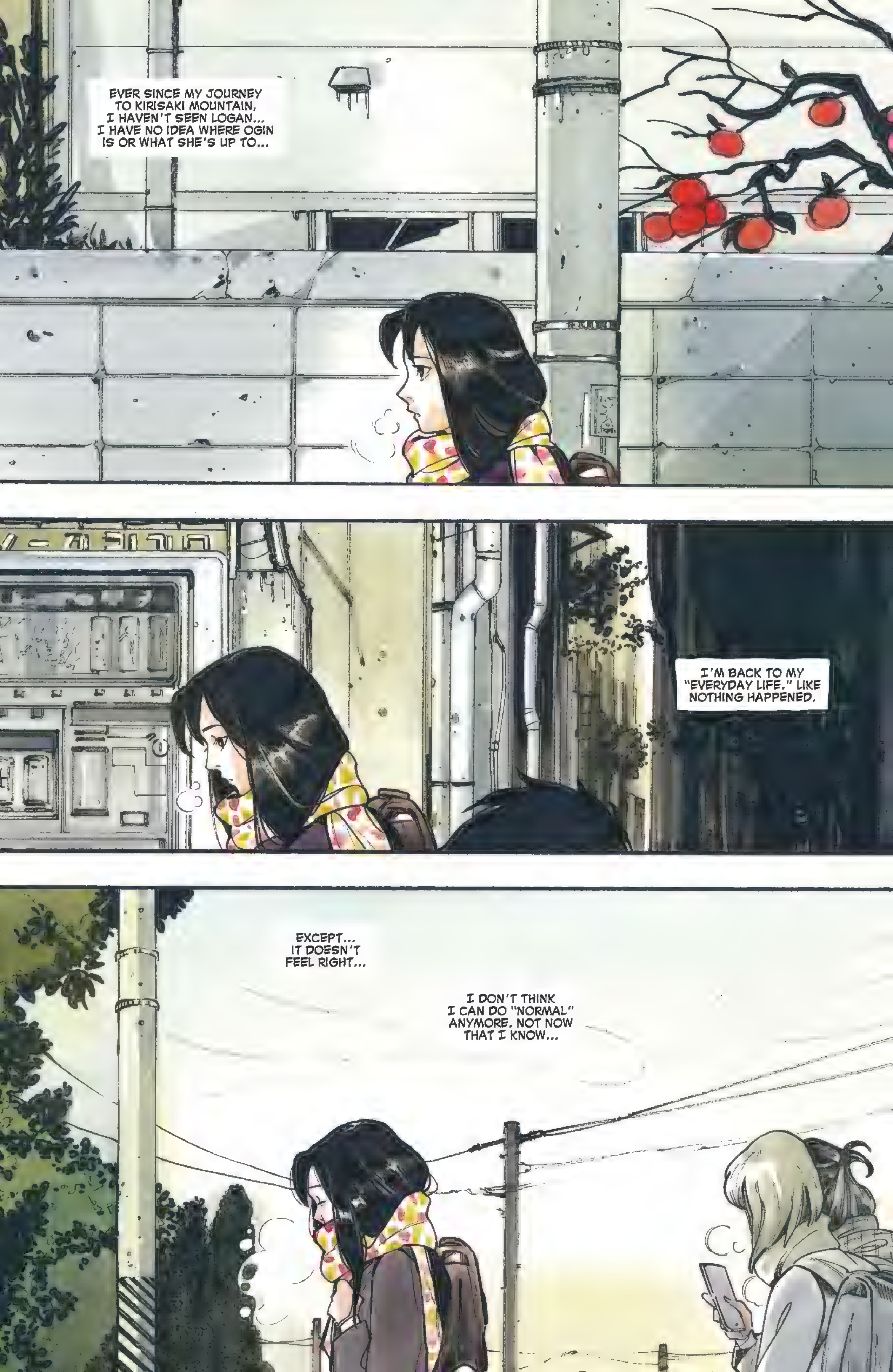

...I THINK PART OF HER DID WANT TO KILL YOU. BUT SHE COULDN'T DO IT.
MARIKO, YOU REMINDED HER OF WHO SHE WAS.
IN A WAY, YOU *DID* SAVE HER.
...I...
YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT OGIN ARE COMPLICATED. TRUST ME, I KNOW.
YOU'LL HAVE TIME TO HEAL AND PROCESS. I THINK WE BOTH NEED THAT. FOR NOW, REST. AND SOUP.
KUROKI!
MISS MARIKO.
IS THAT REALLY YOU?! *YOU'RE ALIVE!*

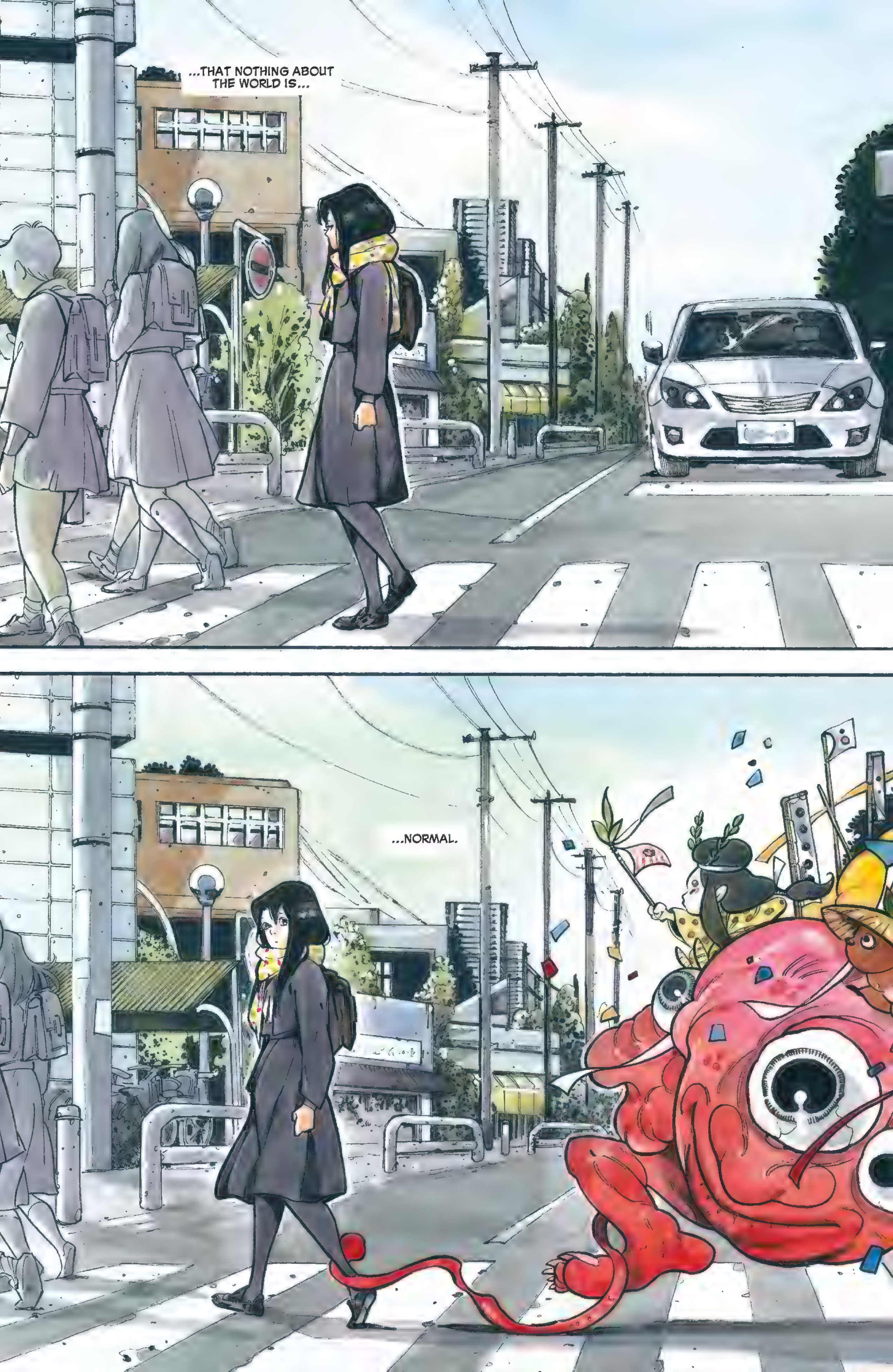

KUROKI SHOWED UP AFTER OGIN LEFT YOU HERE. SHE EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.
I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH. I CAN'T HELP FEELING...
THAT'S THE PAST, GRANNY. AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE PAST FOR NOW.
KUROKI, I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY. I WAS SO WORRIED...
SHHH. YOU'RE SAFE. WE'RE ALL HOME.
EVERYONE IS WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

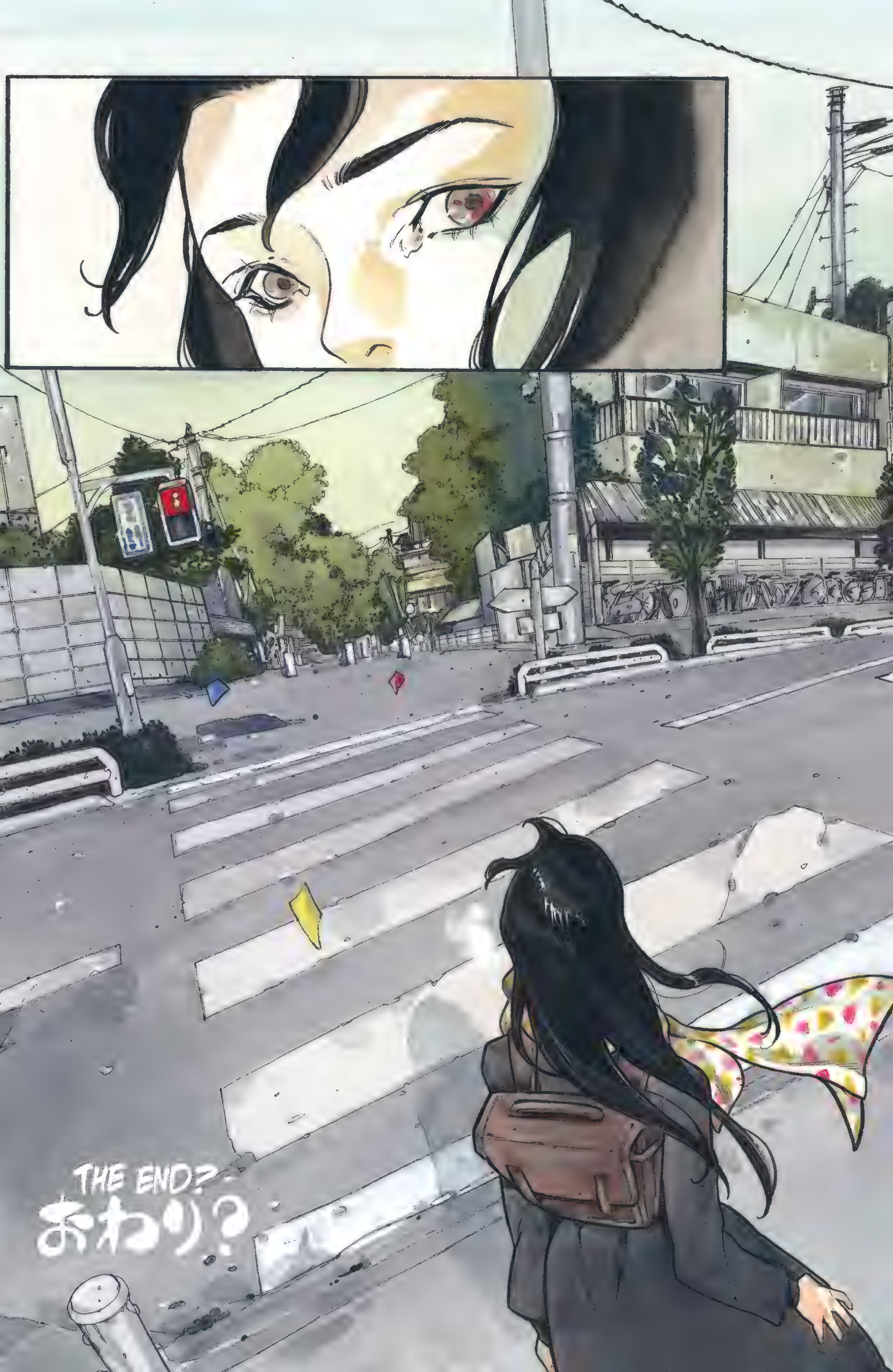

WHAT NOW, MISTRESS?

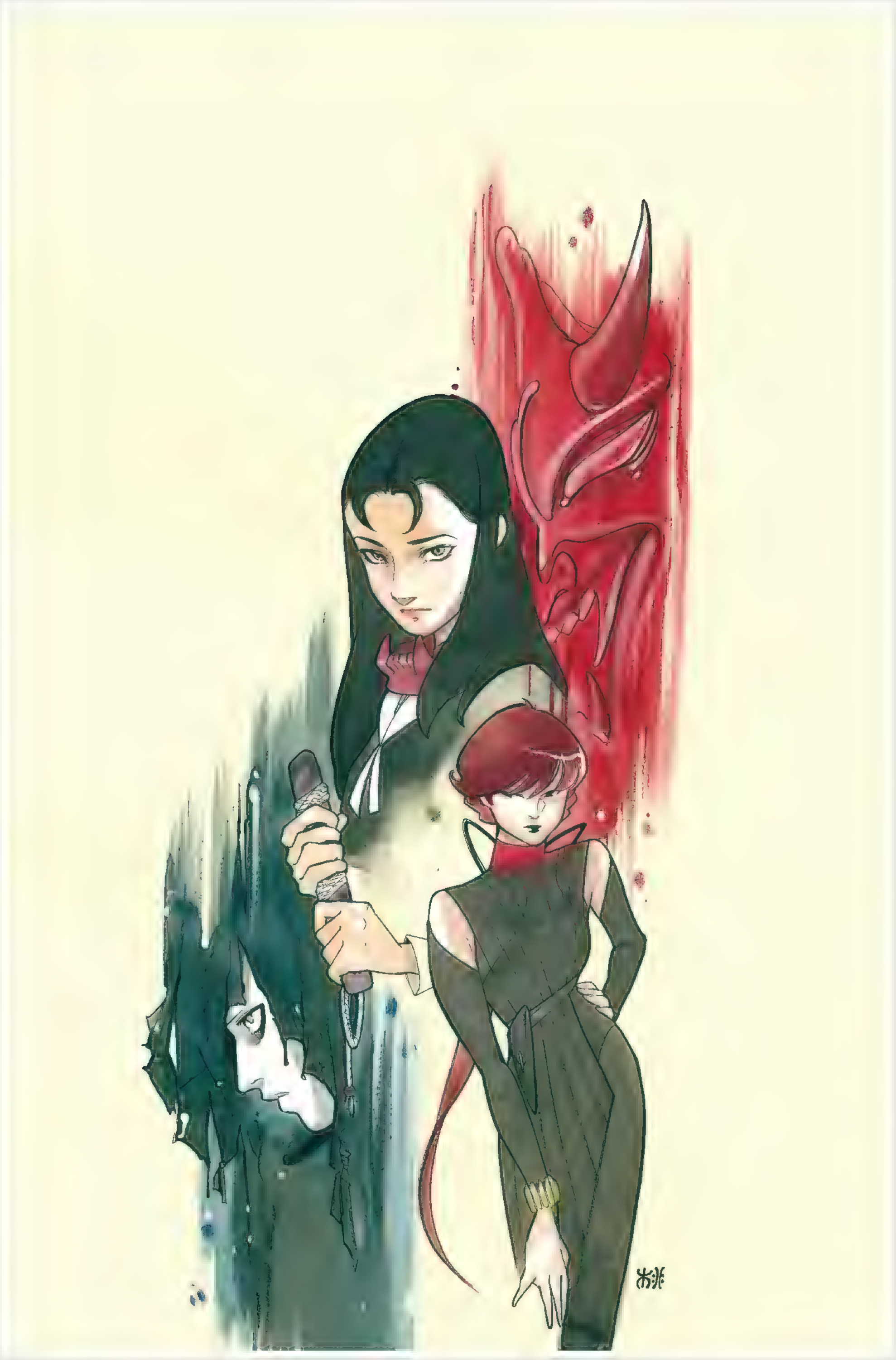

YOU'RE FREE, KUYA.
GO YOUR OWN WAY. STOP FOLLOWING ME.
BUT, MISTRESS, THERE ARE MORE OF OUR KIND OUT THERE.
LOST AND AFRAID. *ALONE.*
SIGH
I KNOW...


とん
とん
I'M OFF TO SCHOOL.
TRY NOT TO GET INTO ANY FIGHTS.
HAHA! IF I DO, I PROMISE I'LL WIN. JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME.
BYE...

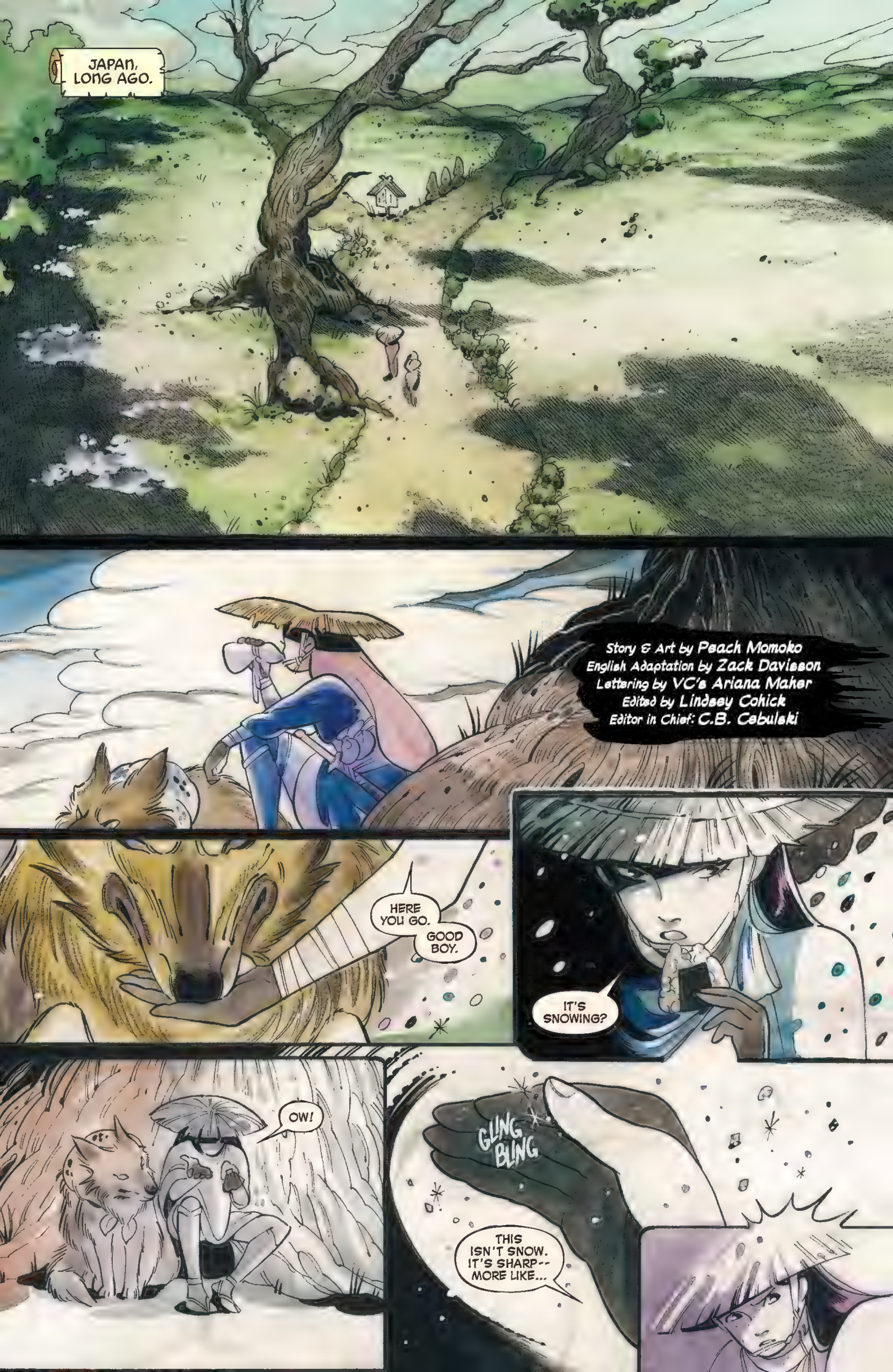

EVER SINCE MY JOURNEY TO KIRISAKI MOUNTAIN, I HAVEN'T SEEN LOGAN... I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE OGIN IS OR WHAT SHE'S UP TO...
I'M BACK TO MY "EVERYDAY LIFE." LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
EXCEPT... IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO "NORMAL" ANYMORE. NOT NOW THAT I KNOW...


...THAT NOTHING ABOUT THE WORLD IS...
...NORMAL.


THE END?
おわり？

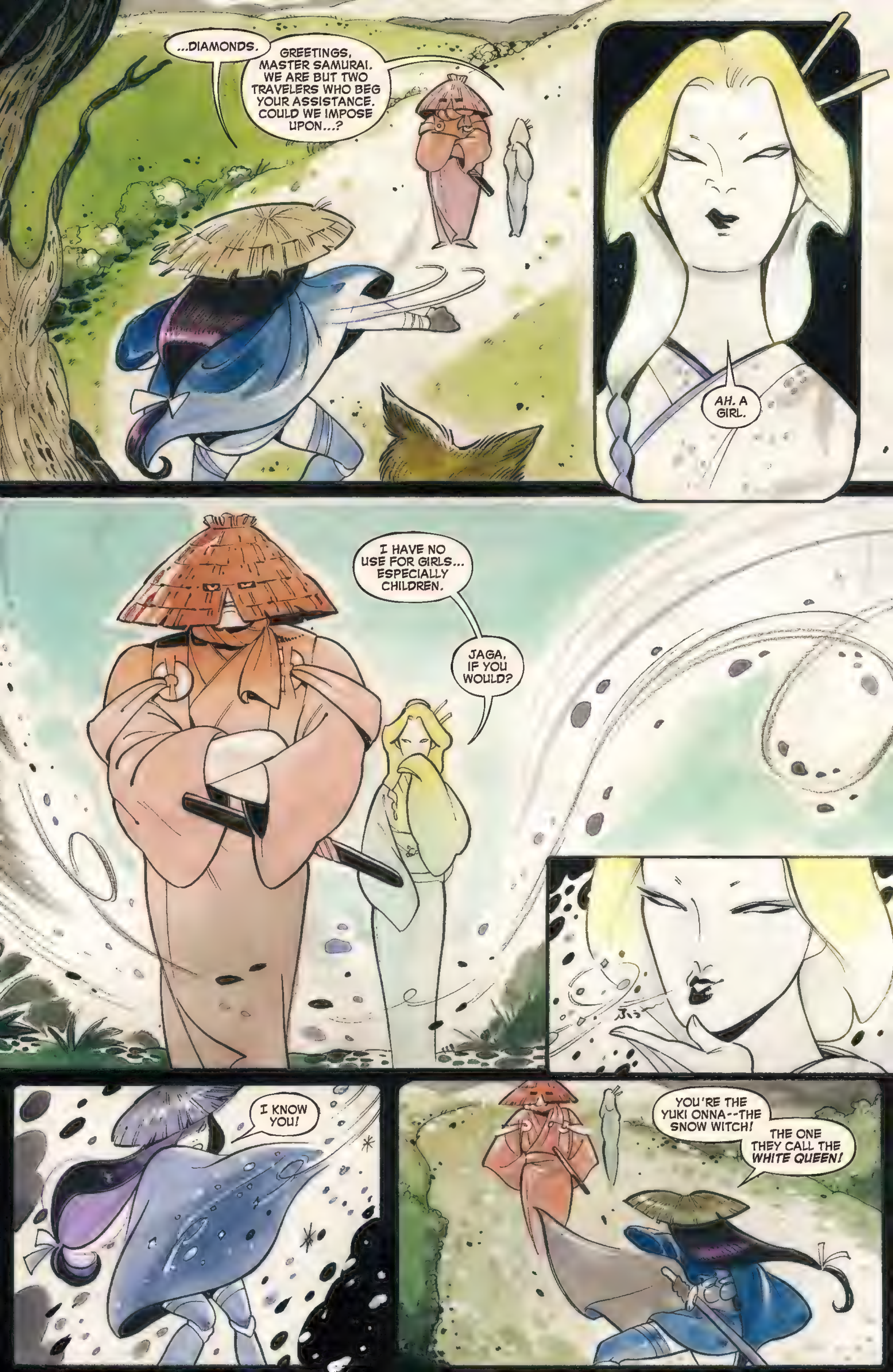


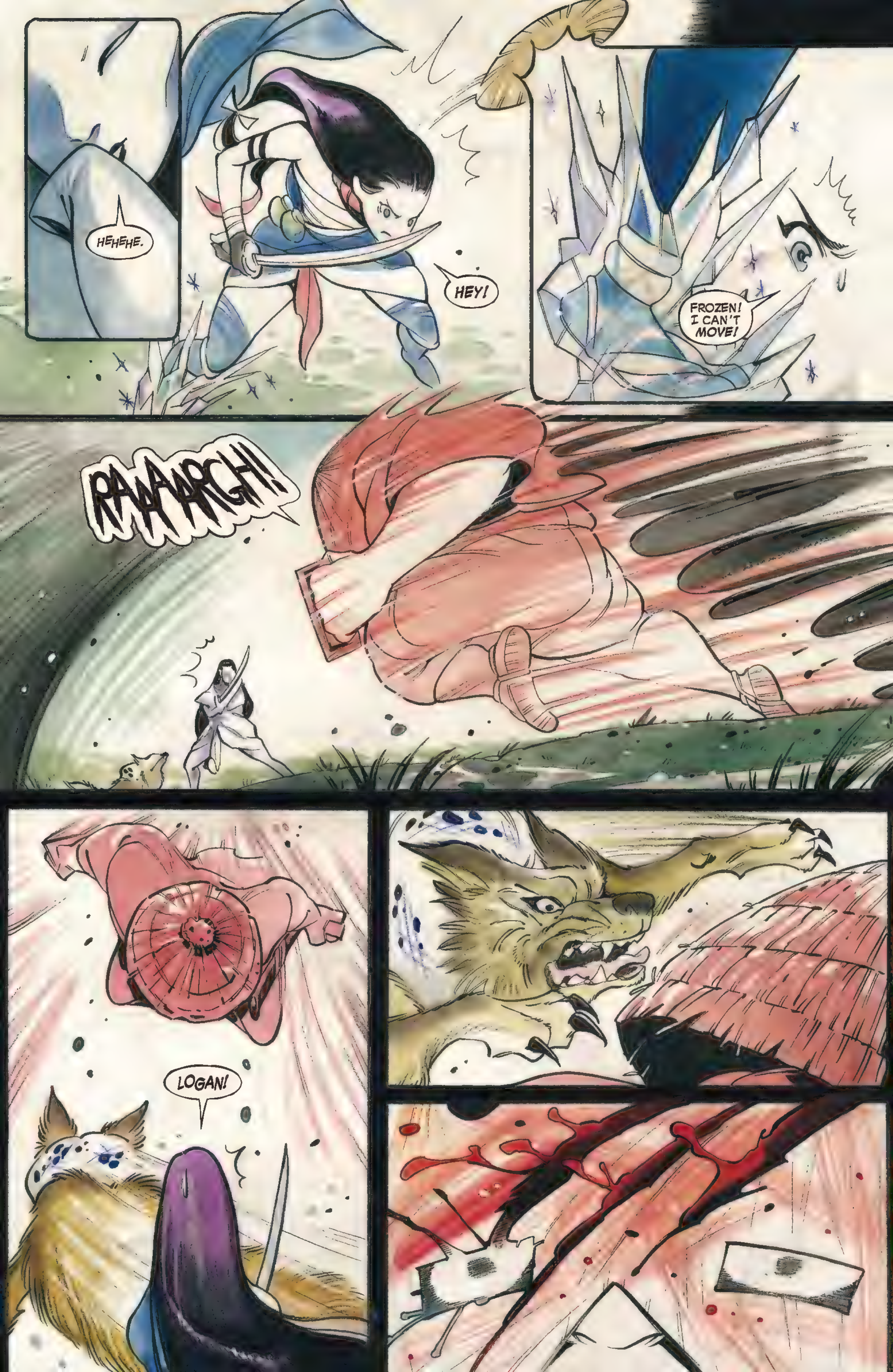
Demon Days: Blood Feud variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**

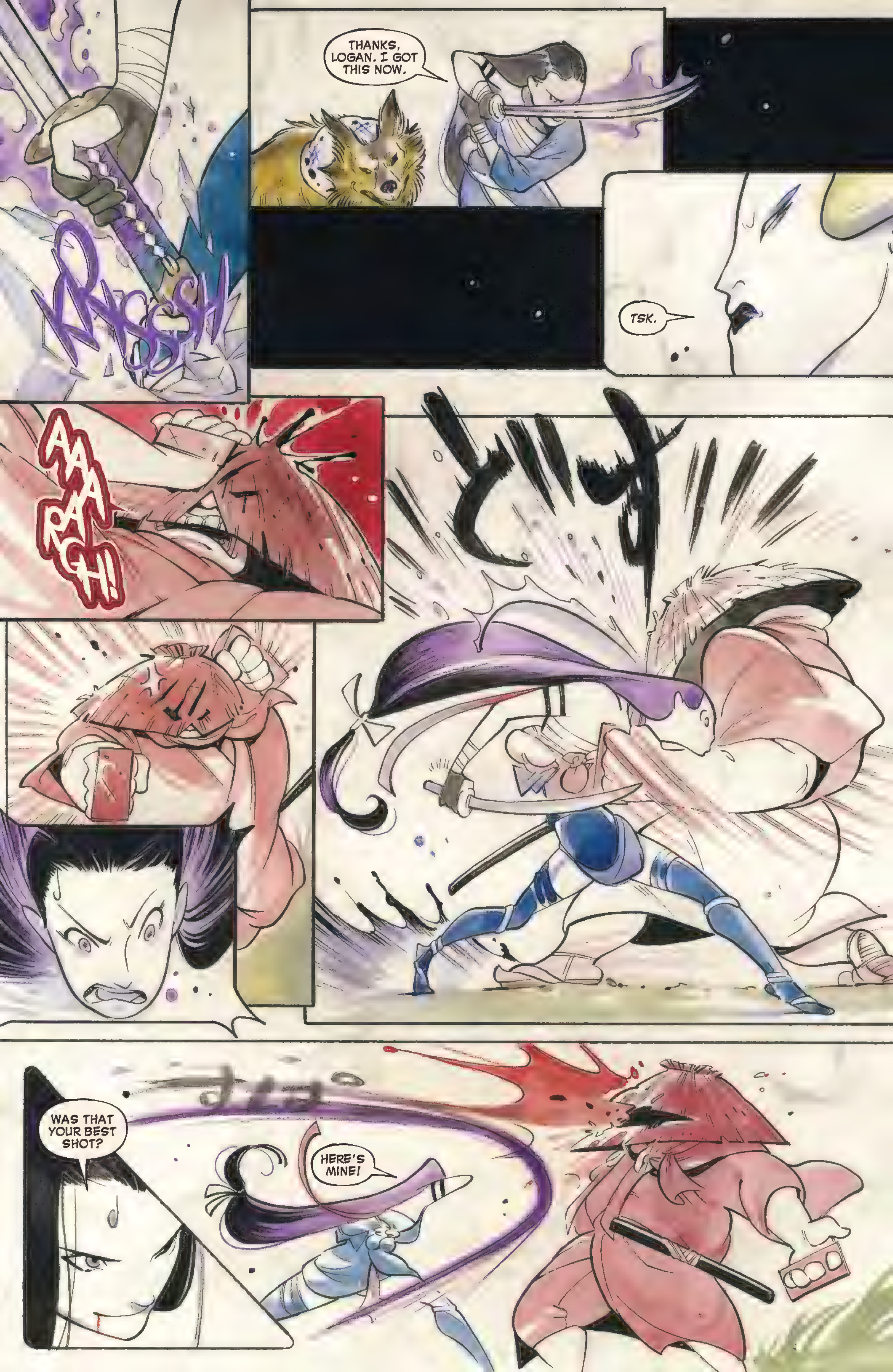


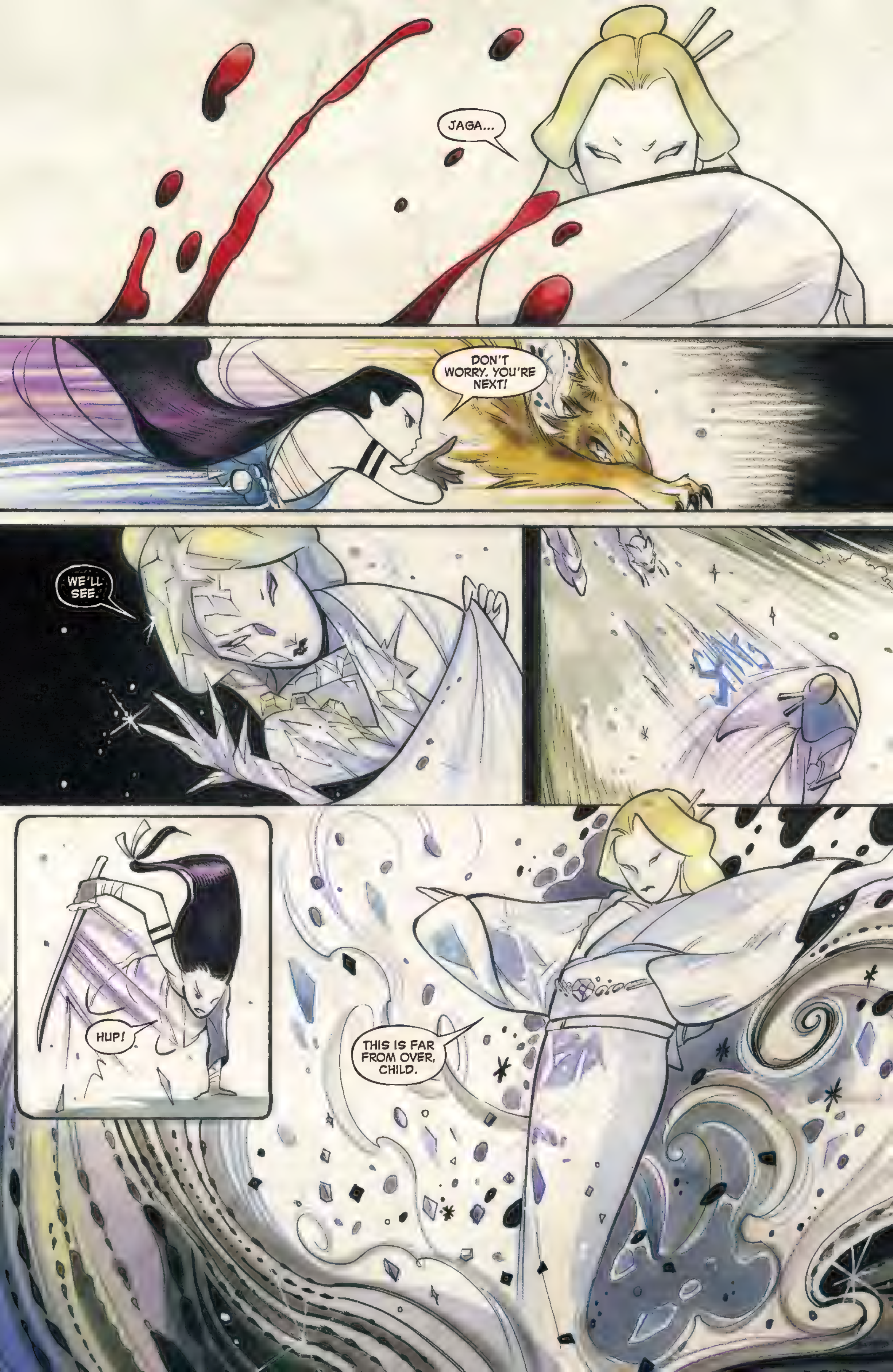
JAPAN, LONG AGO.
HERE YOU GO.
GOOD BOY.
IT'S SNOWING?
OW!
GLING BLING
THIS ISN'T SNOW. IT'S SHARP-- MORE LIKE...

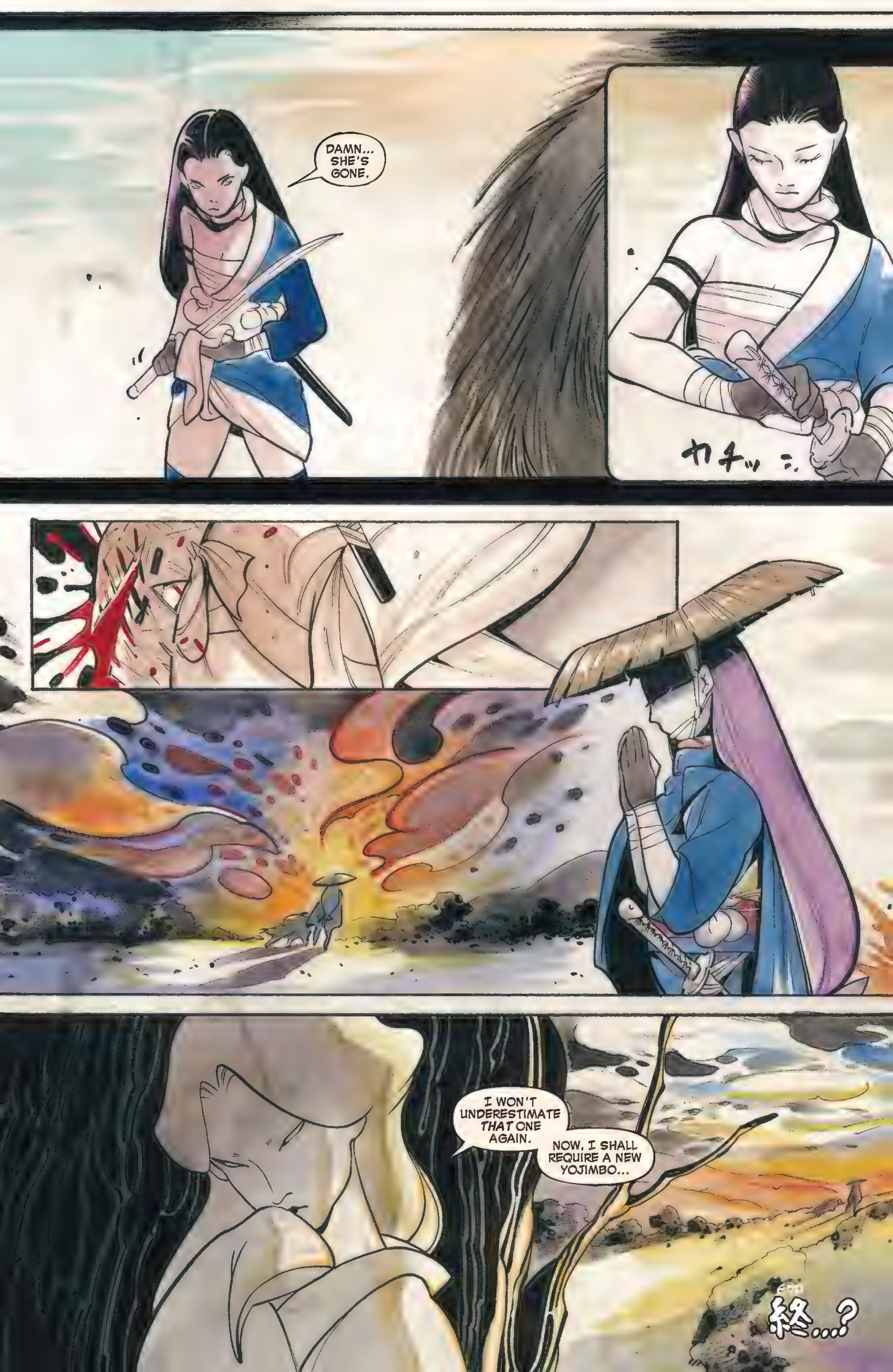
Story & Art by Peach Momoko
English Adaptation by Zack Davisson
Lettering by VC's Ariana Maher
Edited by Lindsey Cohick
Editor in Chief: C.B. Cebulski

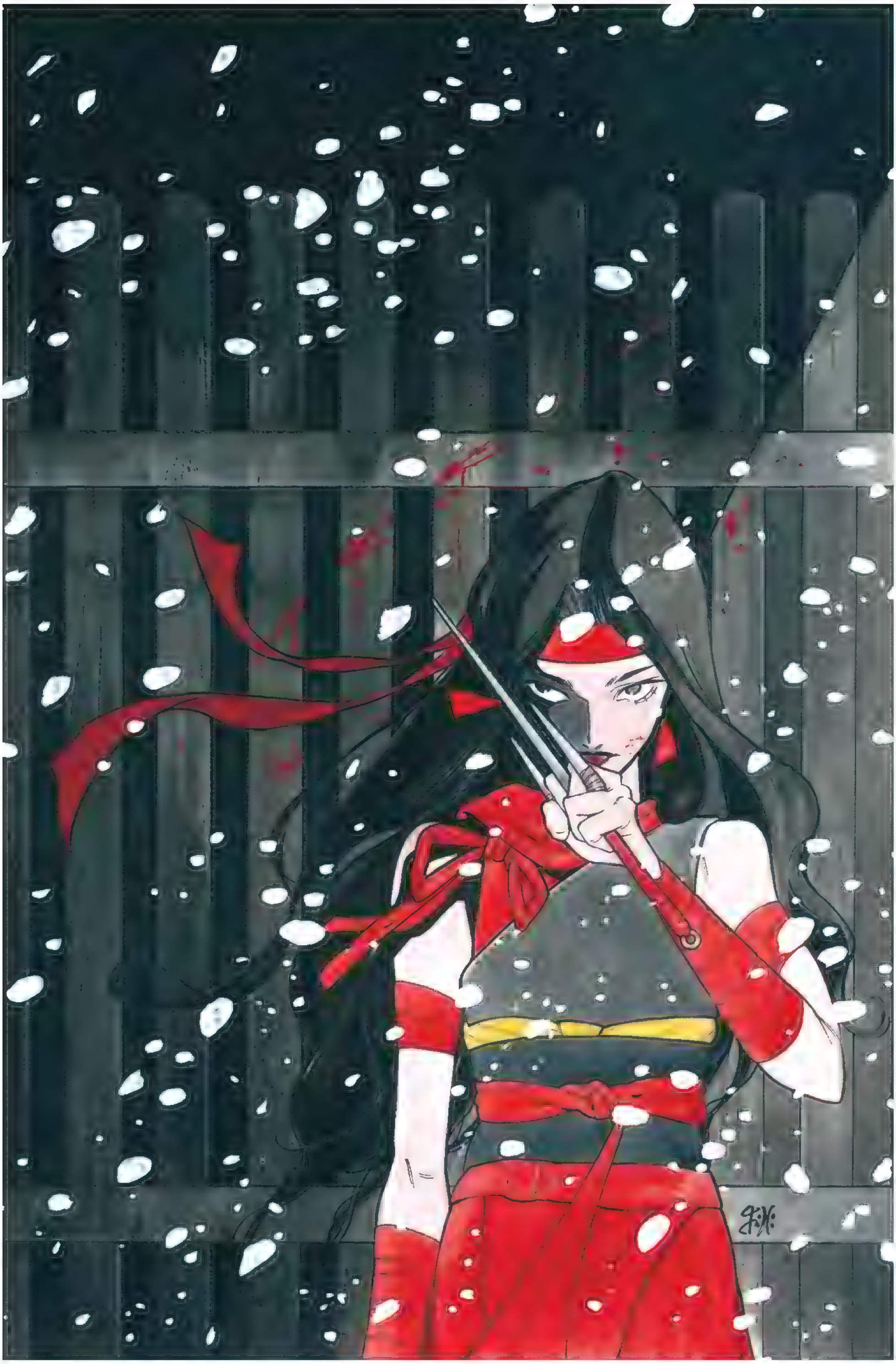

...DIAMONDS.
GREETINGS, MASTER SAMURAI. WE ARE BUT TWO TRAVELERS WHO BEG YOUR ASSISTANCE. COULD WE IMPOSE UPON...?
AH. A GIRL.
I HAVE NO USE FOR GIRLS... ESPECIALLY CHILDREN.
JAGA, IF YOU WOULD?
ふぅ
I KNOW YOU!
YOU'RE THE YUKI ONNA--THE SNOW WITCH!
THE ONE THEY CALL THE *WHITE QUEEN!*


HEHEHE.
HEY!
FROZEN! I CAN'T MOVE!
RAAAARGH!
LOGAN!


KRASSH!
THANKS, LOGAN. I GOT THIS NOW.
TSK.
AAARAGH!
WAS THAT YOUR BEST SHOT?
HERE'S MINE!


JAGA...
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE NEXT!
WE'LL SEE.
SHING
HUP!
THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, CHILD.

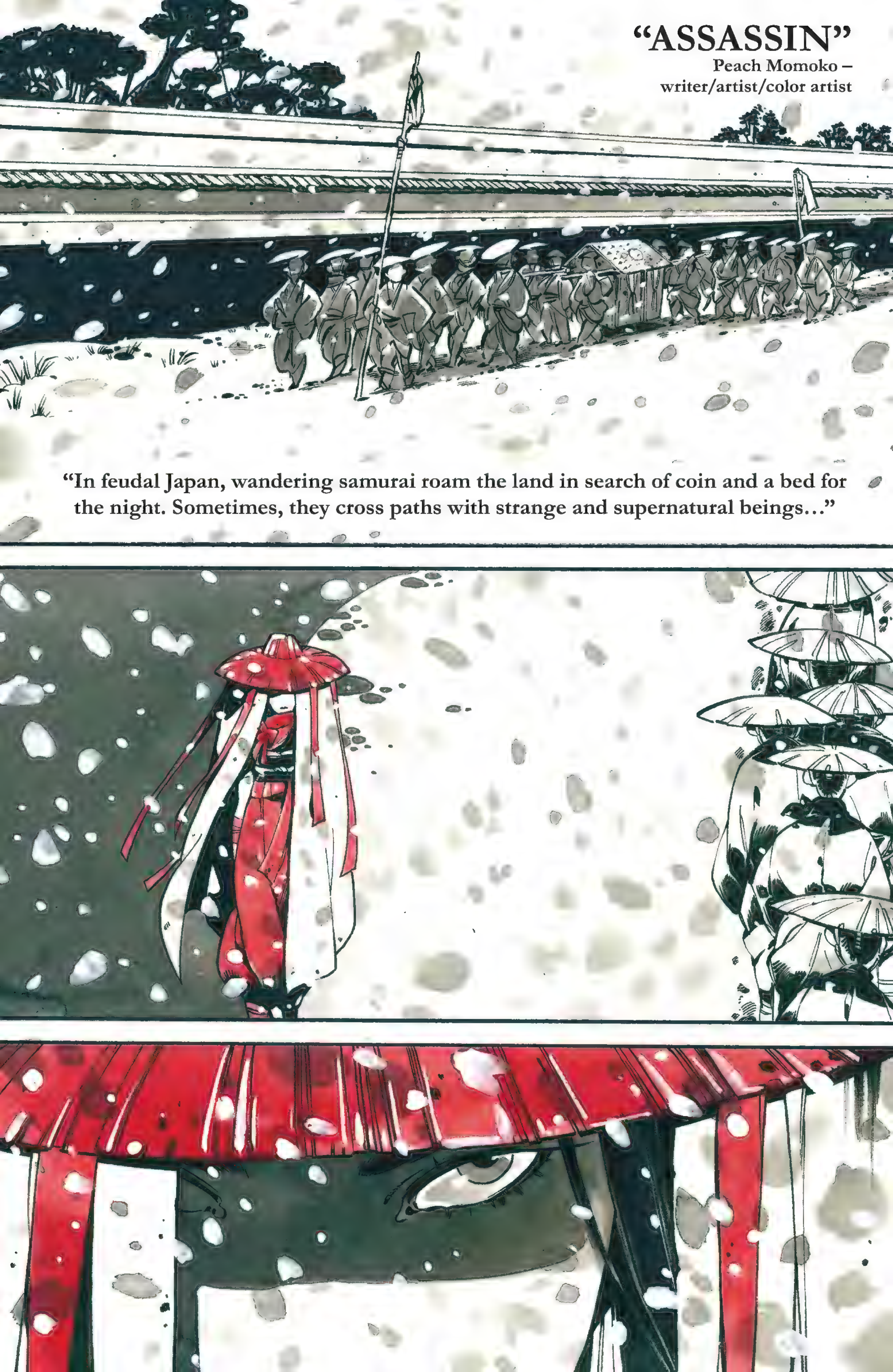

DAMN... SHE'S GONE.
カチッ
I WON'T UNDERESTIMATE *THAT* ONE AGAIN.
NOW, I SHALL REQUIRE A NEW YOJIMBO...
終...?



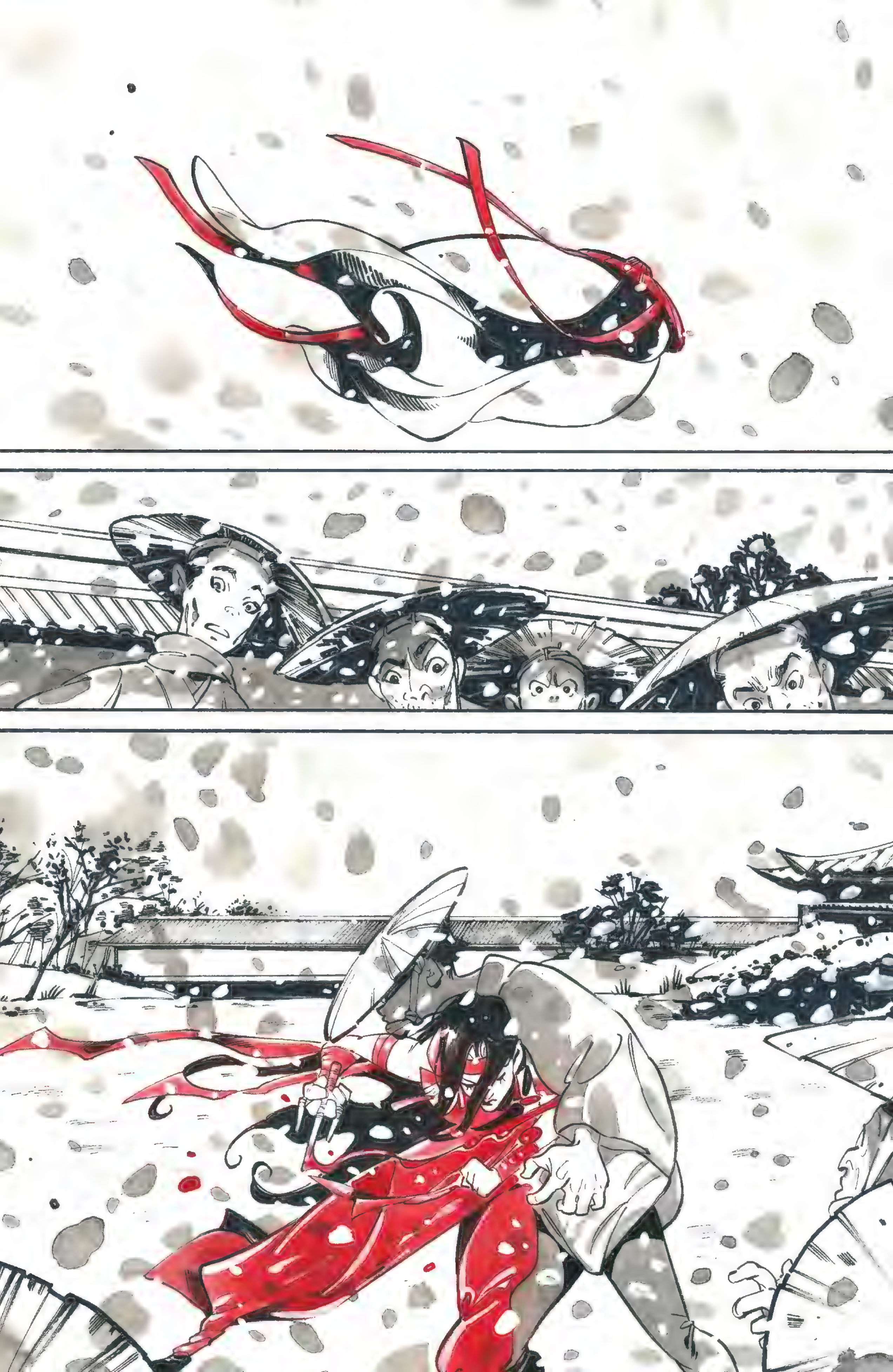
Elektra: Black, White & Blood #4 variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**

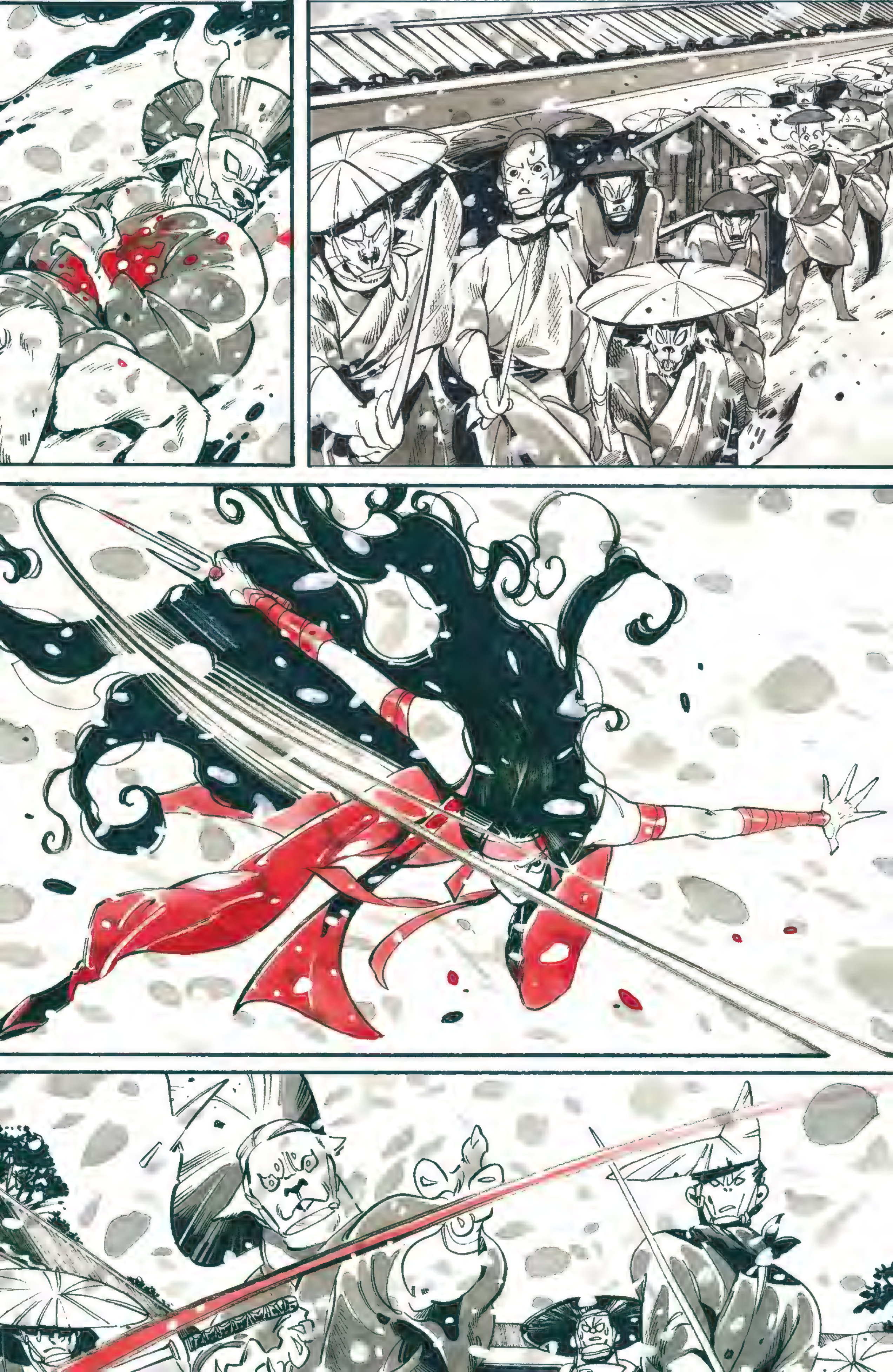
“ASSASSIN”

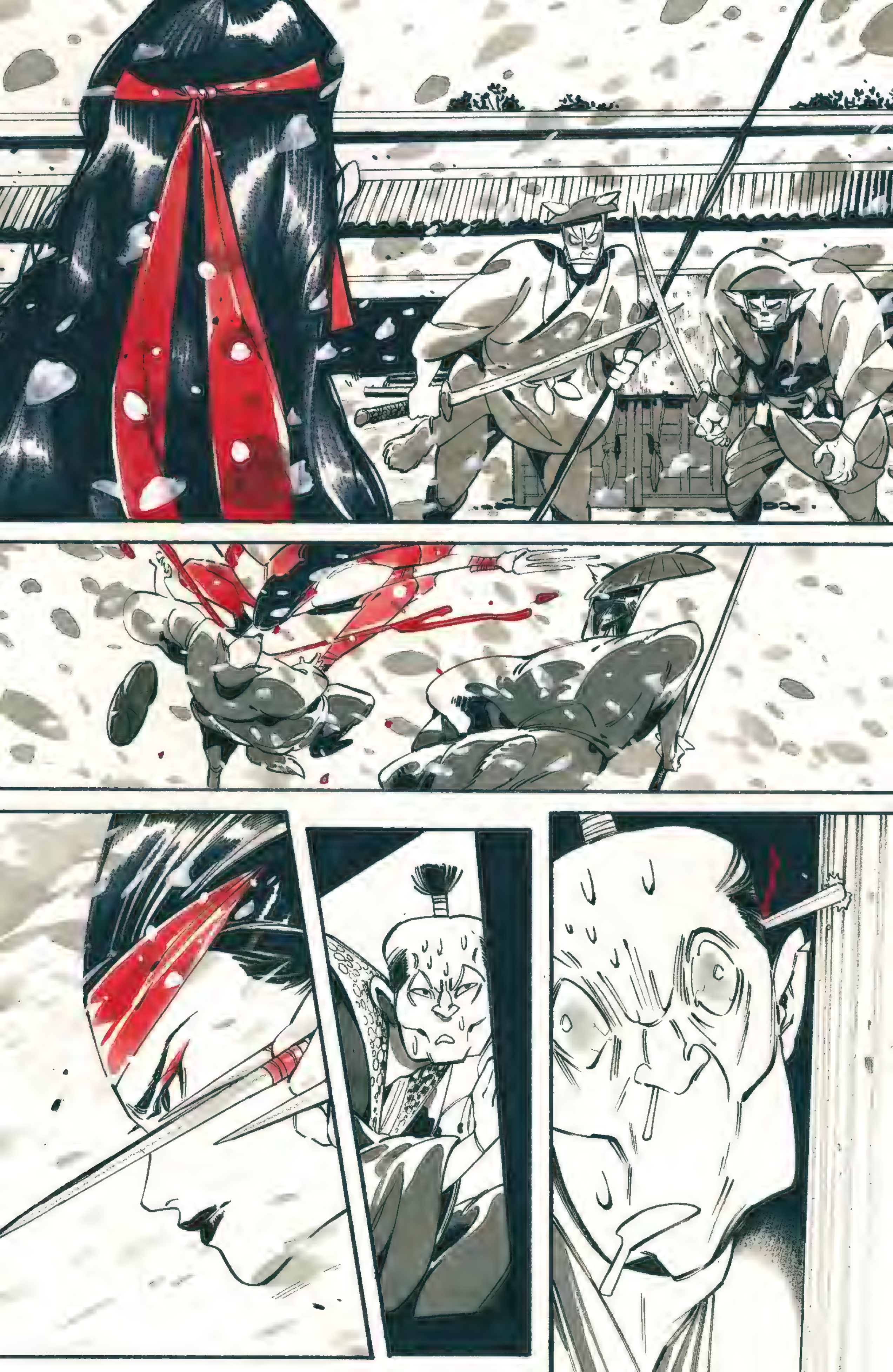
Peach Momoko –
writer/artist/color artist

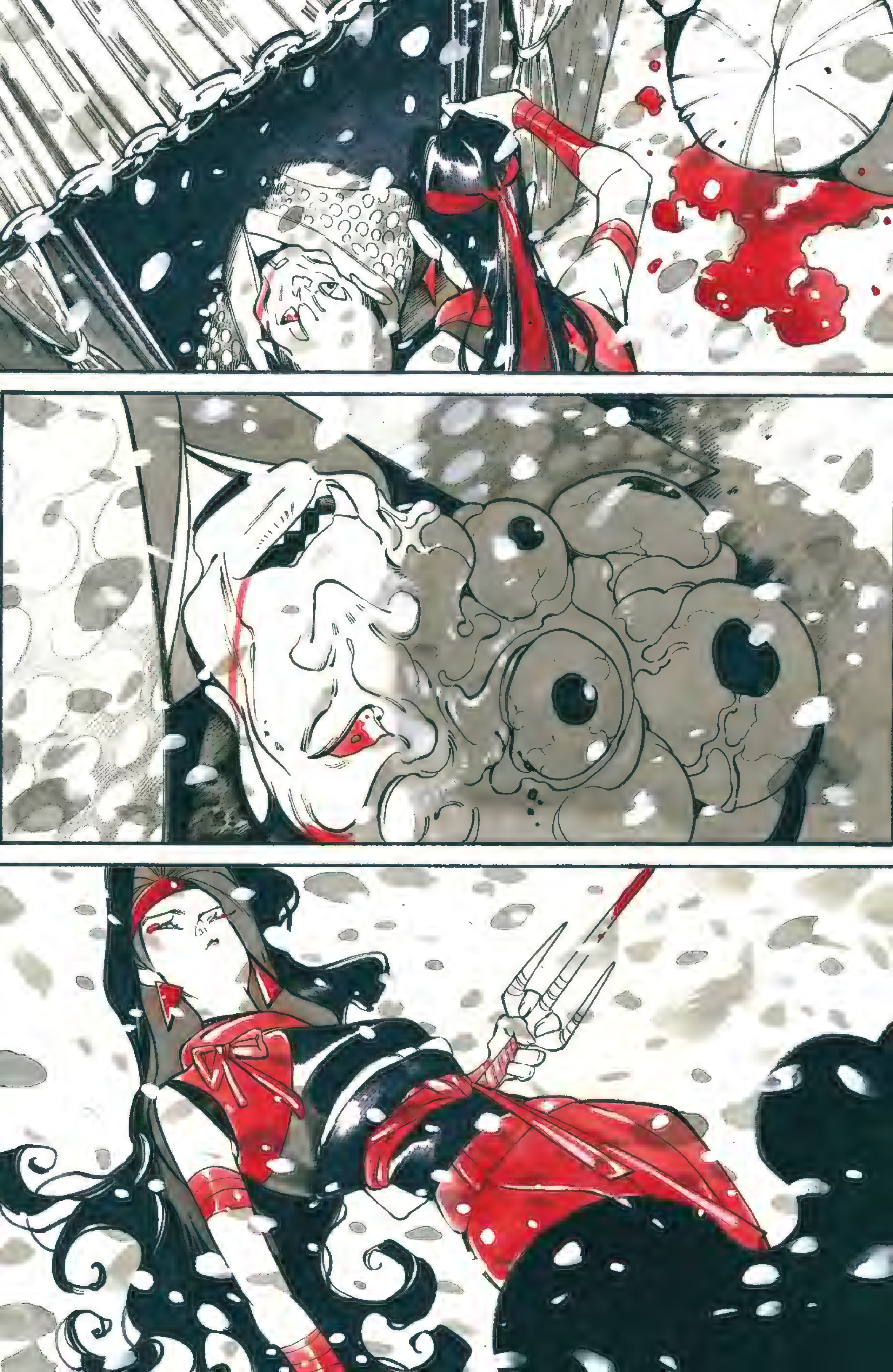


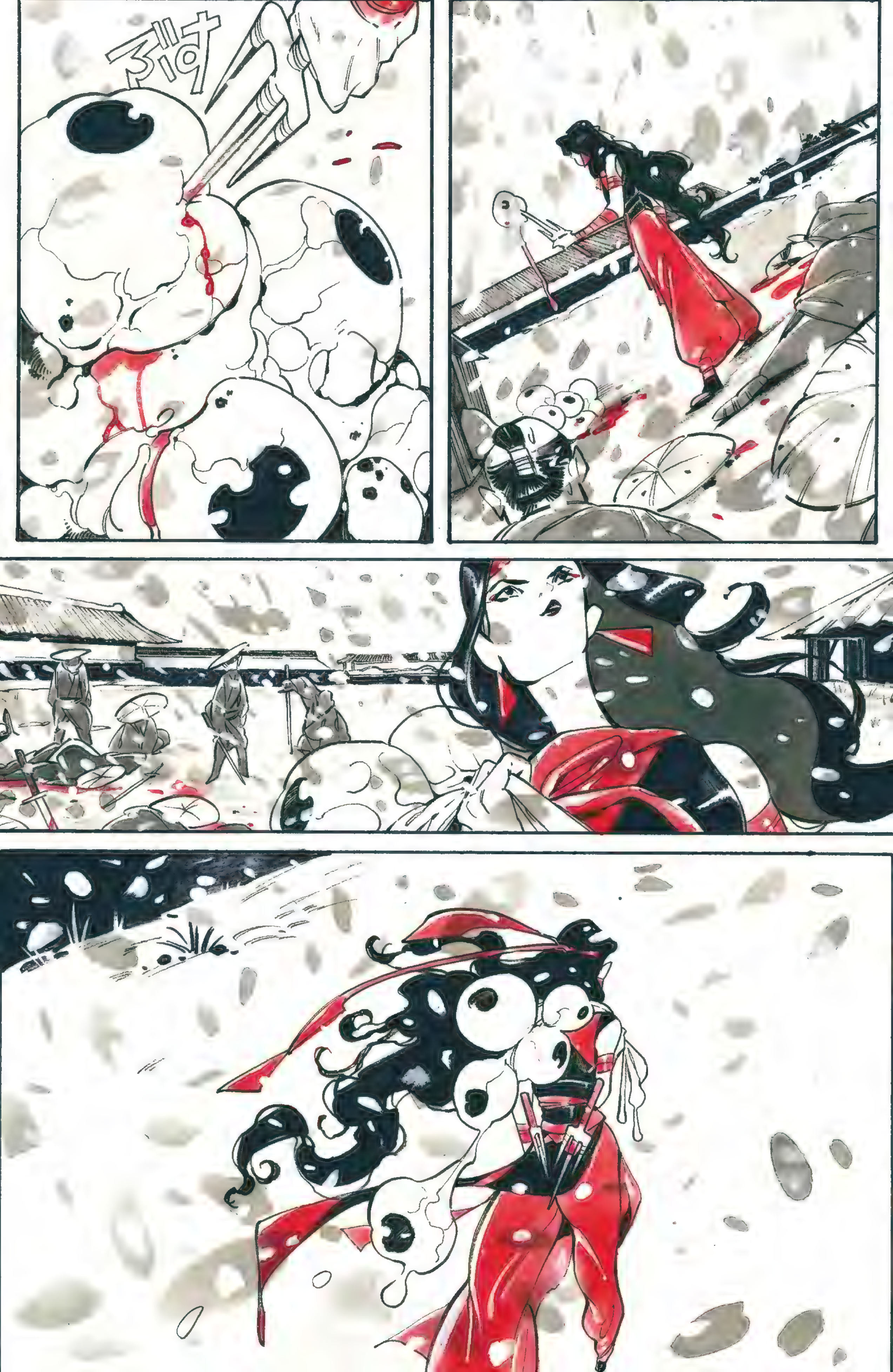
“In feudal Japan, wandering samurai roam the land in search of coin and a bed for the night. Sometimes, they cross paths with strange and supernatural beings…”







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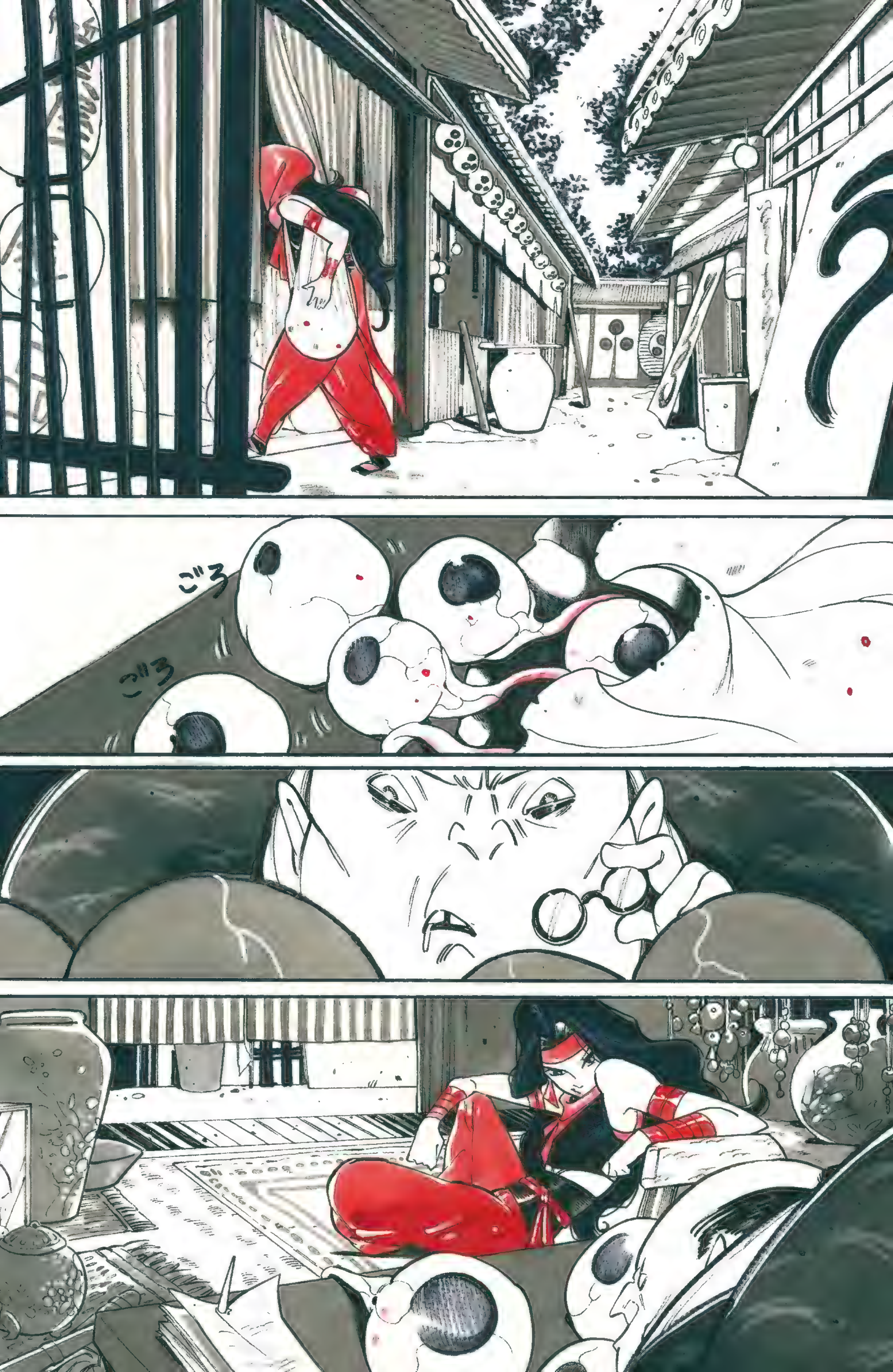
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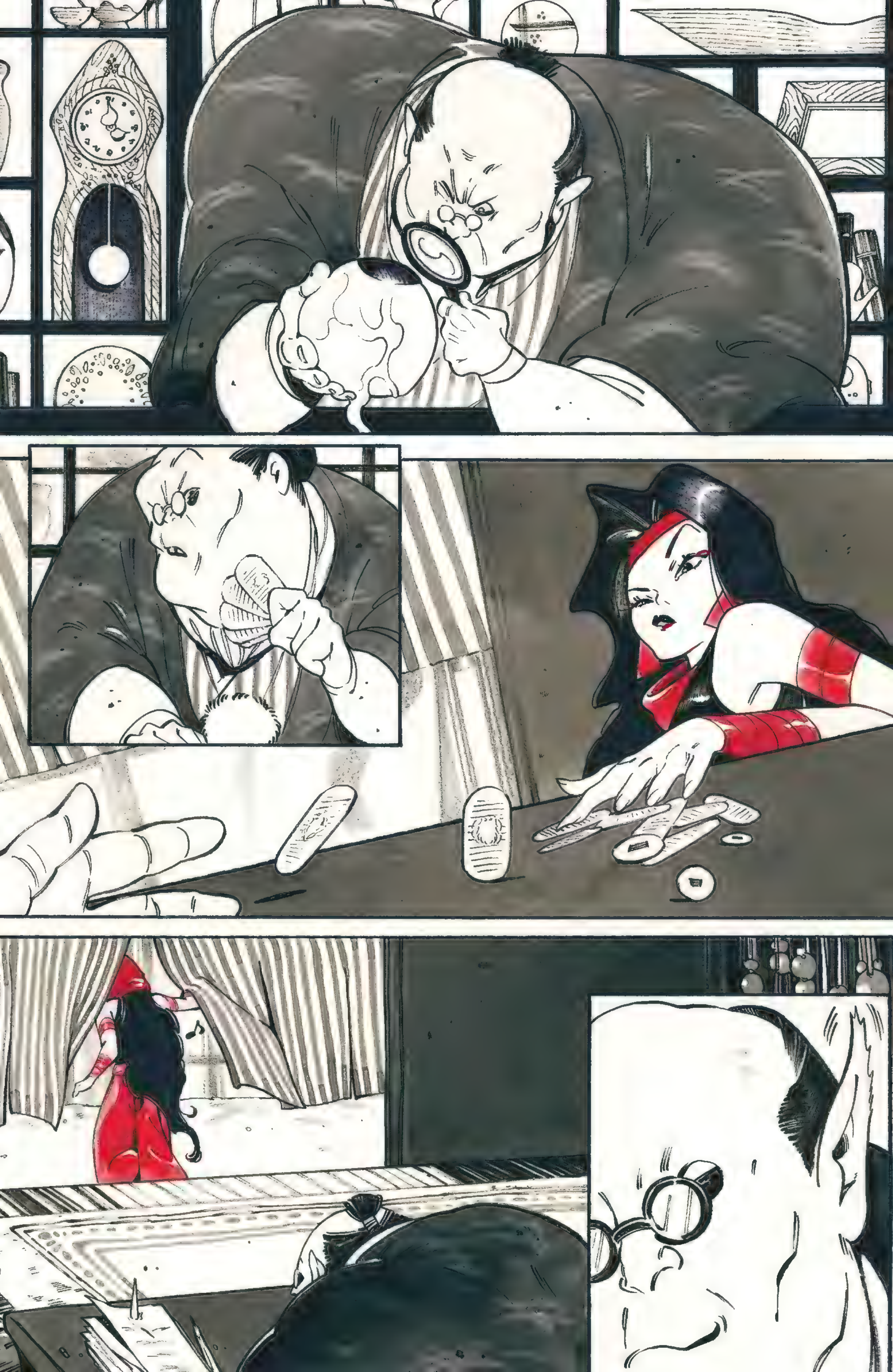
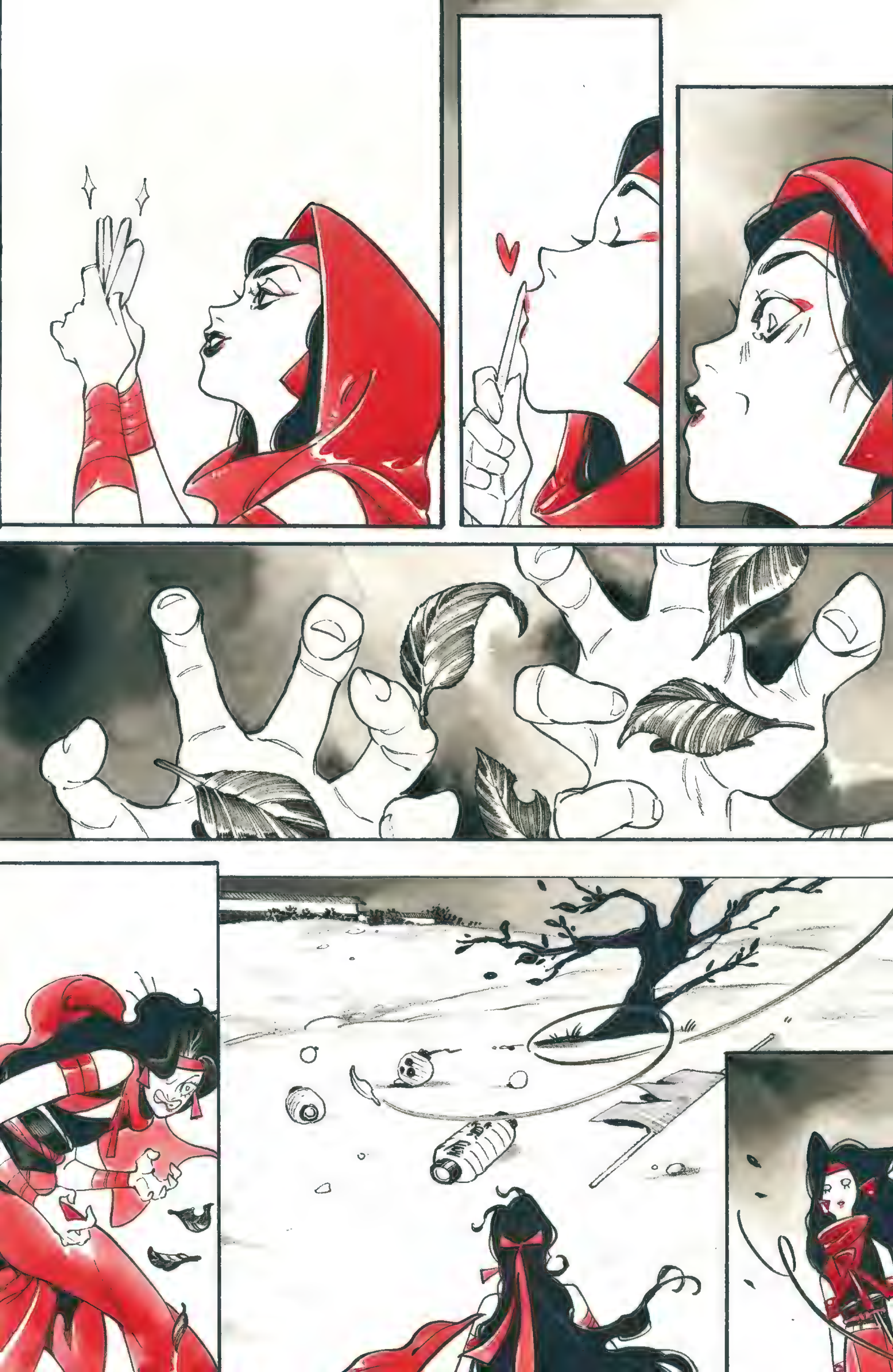
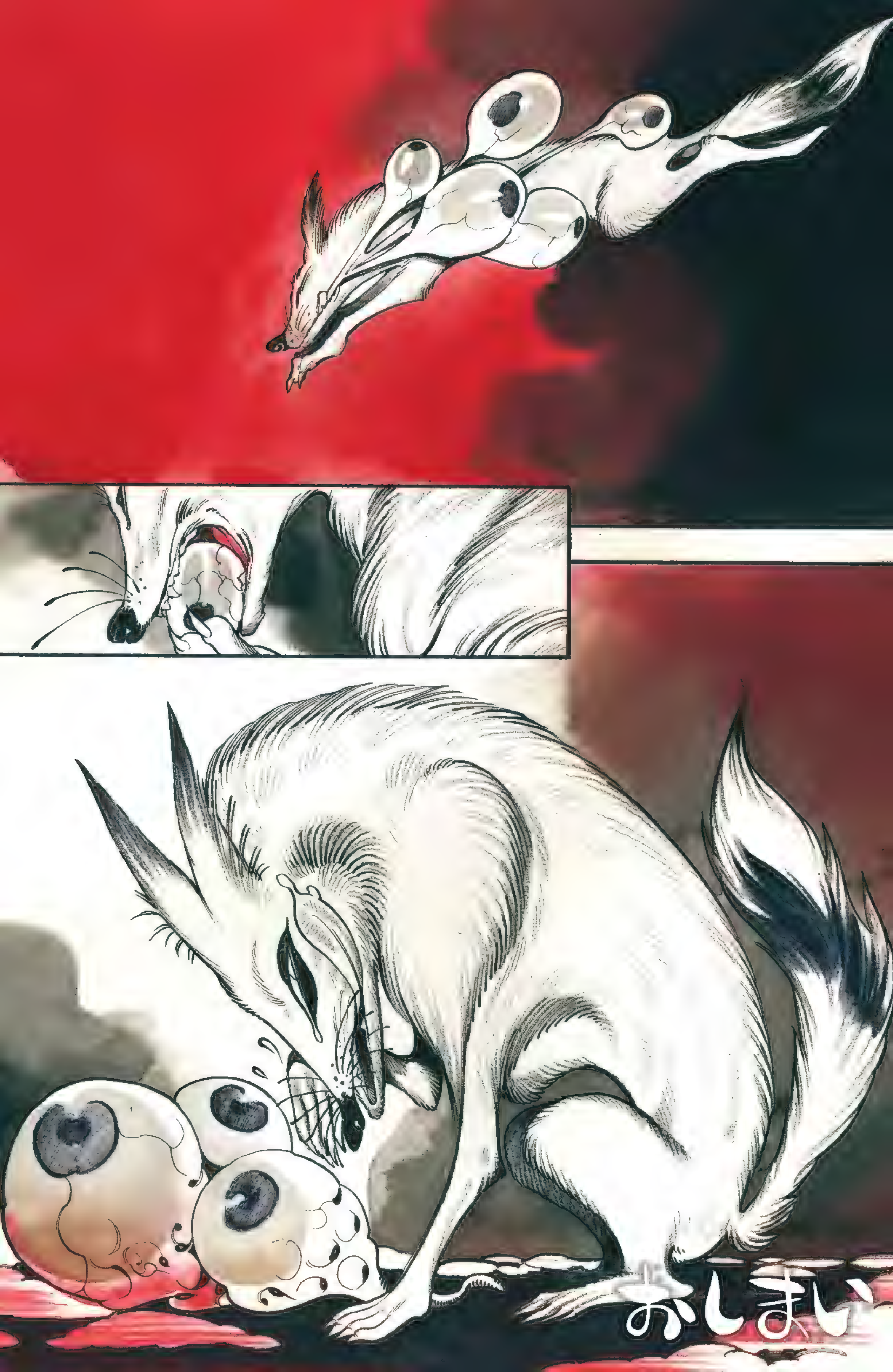




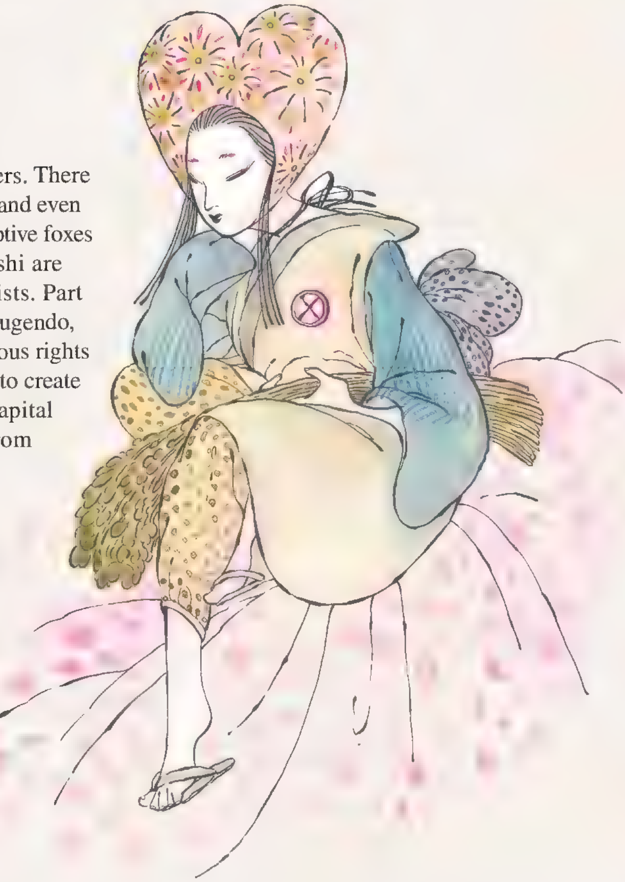

おしまい

YOKAI FILES

呪師

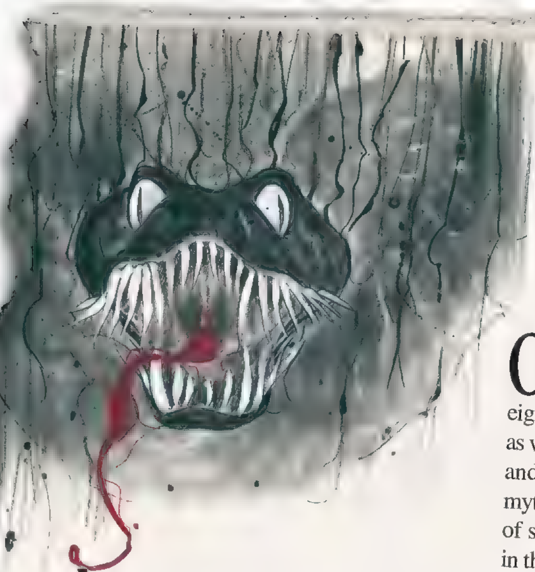
Jushi (Lit: **Curse Master**)

Japan has many magic users. There are magicians, sorcerers, and even a class of wizards who use captive foxes to fuel their powers. But jushi are more properly called exorcists. Part of a religious order called Shugendo, jushi performed yearly religious rights by command of the emperor to create a spiritual shield over the capital and to protect the empire from malevolent spirits.



Shugendo is a syncretic religion combining aspects of Shinto and Buddhism. Active during the Heian period (794 – 1185), Shugendo adherents, called yamabushi, were part priest, part mystic. They lived apart from society and freely wandered the mountains of Japan that were considered the abode of kami. Ordinary people were in awe of yamabushi. When help was needed, yamabushi descended from their mountains to perform complex rituals of abjuration. Jushi were a special class of yamabushi dedicated to dance and theater. In the great temples of Tōdai-ji and Kōfuku-ji, jushi conducted the yearly ceremony of jushi-hashiri, a ritualized performance intended to entertain benevolent kami spirits and invite their protection. As centuries passed, both Shugendo and jushi vanished almost completely from Japanese society. The rituals of the jushi live on only in the dances of Noh theater. ◉

Art by **Peach Momoko** / Text by **Zack Davisson**



大蛇

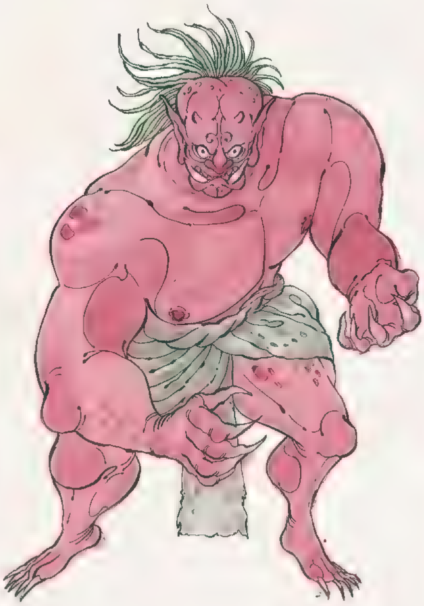
Orochi (Lit: Great Snake)

Orochi's full name describes it well: Yamata no Orochi, the Great Eight-headed Snake. Described as having eight heads and eight tails, Orochi's many eyes were as red as winter cherries. Its length was eight hills and eight valleys, and upon its back grew fir and cypress trees. Orochi is a mythic monster from Japanese folklore who battled the god of storms, Susanoo-no-Mikoto. Their story was first told in the *Kojiki*, or *Record of Ancient Matters*, in the year 680.

According to legend, Susanoo was expelled from heaven for tricking his sister, Amaterasu, the sun goddess. On Earth, he encountered two crying Earth deities who said they had been forced to sacrifice their daughters to the great snake. Susanoo knew he could not beat Orochi in a fight, so he made eight great vats of liquor and left them for each of the serpent's heads to drink. After it had passed out, Susanoo snuck up and cut it to pieces. In one of Orochi's tails, Susanoo found a mighty sword, Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi, or Grass Cutter. This blade became one of the three sacred treasures of Japan and is said to be housed in Atsuta Shrine in Nagoya to this day. ◉

赤鬼

Aka Oni (Lit: Red Oni)



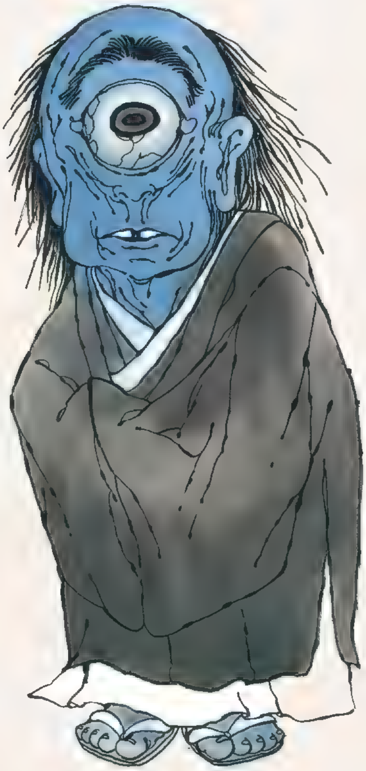
Oni are as old as Japan. In ancient times, oni was the word for malevolent energy, the opposing force to benevolent energy called kami. Invisible and formless, oni were blamed for illness and famine, for earthquakes and lightning. With the arrival of Buddhism in Japan in 552, this negative energy merged with Indian demigods called rakshasa and other influences to give oni physical form. This new religion also put Japan's oni to work; reimagined as demons in hell, oni meted out punishment to sinning mortals under the watchful eye of Enma Dai-Ō, judge of the dead.

For centuries oni were the terrors of Japanese imagination. Their reputation changed in 1933 when Hamada Hirosuke wrote the children's book *The Red Oni Who Cried*. This told of a kind red oni who wanted to be friends with humans. But the humans were afraid. So his friend the blue oni pretended to attack some children, allowing the red oni to come to their rescue. He got his wish and the love of humanity, yet at the cost of the blue oni. The red oni cried at the loss of his friend. ◉

青坊主

Ao Bōzu (Lit: **Blue Priest**)

While many yokai have rich histories, the ao bōzu is a mystery. It first appeared in 1776 in *Gazu Hyakki Yagyō*, a yokai bestiary by artist Toriyama Sekien. His illustration shows a solitary priest in a mountain hut. The priest is large and heavyset and sports a single eye in his round head. The name that Sekien gave his illustration, ao bōzu, could have multiple meanings. *Ao*, or "blue" in Japanese, also means "young" or "unskilled." An ao bōzu could be a novice priest or perhaps a pretender who wears the garments of a holy person while knowing nothing of the sacred teachings. The ambiguity could be a sly dig at a corrupt priesthood. Or the name could simply mean a blue monk. Sekien's original illustration is in black and white, so we don't know.



Whatever Sekien's intentions, legends sprung up across Japan about this creature. In most cases, the ao bōzu is literally blue. The single eye is reminiscent of minor mountain gods, and many tales merge the monster with older myths. The ao bōzu is said to appear mysteriously in the twilight as day turns to night. Sometimes it issues a challenge that must be met, either a riddle or sumo match. The consequence of failing an ao bōzu's challenge is often death. However, the ao bōzu can be kept at bay by carrying woven baskets or other objects with multiple holes. The appearance of many eyes is said to drive away the single-eyed ao bōzu, either from fear or jealousy. ◉

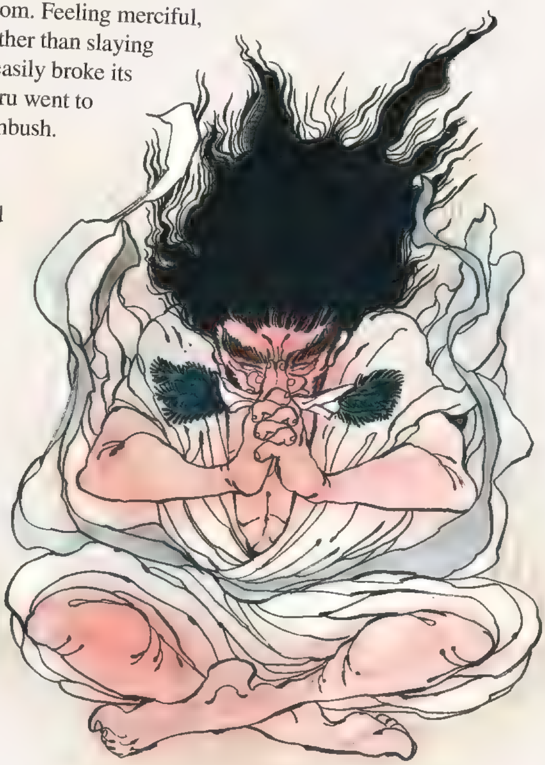
鬼童丸

Kidōmaru (Lit: Oni Child)

Legends of Kidōmaru all agree on one thing: It is the abandoned child of an oni. Said to have been born with a full set of teeth, Kidōmaru was a vicious child. When it was only 7 years old, it threw rocks at wild boars to kill them and feast on them. An ancient monster, Kidōmaru was first mentioned in the *Kokon Chomunjū* in 1254.

The Kamakura-period collection tells nostalgic tales of the earlier Heian period, including chapters on art, poetry, and the sport of kickball. One story in its many chapters tells of the slaying of the powerful oni lord Shuten-dōji by the hero Minamoto no Yorimitsu and his warriors. Returning home from killing the infamous oni, they found a small oni child hiding in a bathroom. Feeling merciful, they bound the child in chains, rather than slaying it. This child, named Kidōmaru, easily broke its chains. Seeking revenge, Kidōmaru went to Kurama Temple and plotted an ambush. It killed a cow and hid inside the body while waiting for Yorimitsu. However, Yorimitsu was too skilled a warrior for this ploy. He signaled his ally Watanabe no Tsuna to fire an arrow through the cow. Enraged, Kidōmaru attacked, but Yorimitsu struck it down with a single blow.

But that was not the end for Kidōmaru. In 1781 the artist Toriyama Sekien included Kidōmaru in his bestiary, *Konjaku Hyakki Shōi*, and in 1806 the writer Takizawa Bakin resurrected Kidōmaru and pitted it against the legendary bandit Hakamadare for the Edo-period adventure novel *Shitennō Shōtō Iroku*, or *Strange Story of the Eradication of the Four Retainers.* ◉



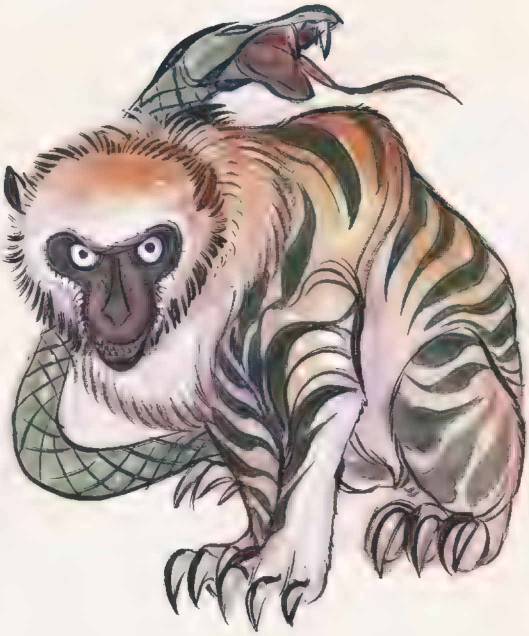
鵺

Nue (Lit: Scaly Thrush)

One of Japan's most ancient folkloric yokai monsters, nue are chimerical beasts. Their bodies are an assemblage of animals, usually described as having the head of a monkey, the torso of a tanuki, the legs of a tiger, and a snake for a tail. In other accounts, they have the head of a cat, the torso of a tiger, the legs of a tanuki, and the tail of a fox. In some versions, they even have the body of a chicken. Their bodies are thought to symbolize animals in the sexagenary cycle of directional magic. The snake represents southeast, the monkey southwest, the tanuki northwest, and the tiger northeast.

Whatever beasts make up their form, nue are shape-shifters and bringers of nightmares. They can transform into black clouds that float overhead and issue a mournful cry, causing illness and bad dreams to all below. They are said to have the cry of the scaly thrush, a bird species with which they share a name. Early depictions identified them as "a monster who cried like a nue." Eventually this was shortened to calling the yokai itself nue.

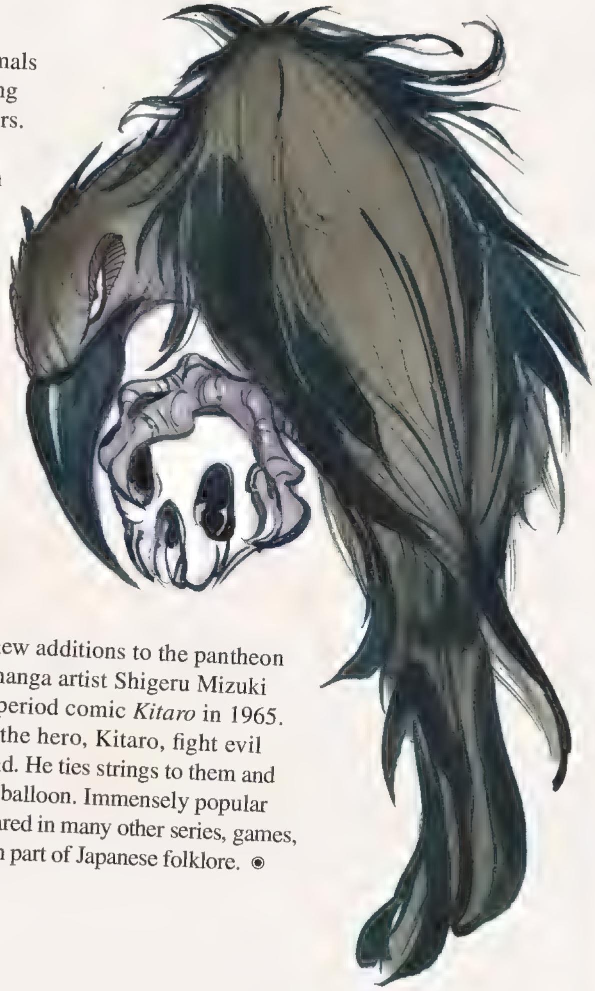
The oldest known account appears in the thirteenth-century epic *Heike Monogatari*, which records the Genpei War between the Taira and Minamoto clans. The story says that in 1153, Emperor Konoe fell ill and was tormented by nightmares. After all medicine and prayers failed, the emperor summoned the legendary samurai Minamoto no Yorimasa to help him. Sensing an evil spirt, Yorimasa stood guard at night. He heard the cry of a nue bird and saw a black cloud over the palace. He shot an arrow into the cloud and slew the beast, and its body dropped to the ground. Yorimasa placed the monster's body in a boat and floated it down the Kamo River to rid the emperor of the nue's curse. Several villages say it washed up on their shore, and to this day, there are at least three burial mounds around Western Japan called Nuezuka, each claiming to house the true body of the nue. ◉



化け烏

Bakekarasu (Lit: Changing Crow)

In Japanese folklore, animals that live preternaturally long lives gain supernatural powers. Collectively called henge, these transformed animals can shape-shift into humans and other forms and often have other powers as well. They are usually known by the suffix *bake-*, meaning "changing." A bakeneko, for example, is a changing cat. A bakekujira is a changing whale. A bakekarasu is a changing crow.



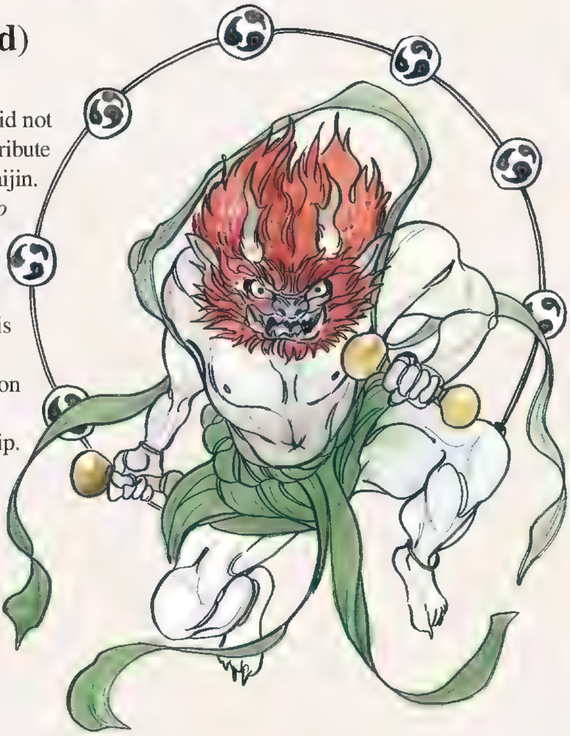
Bakekarasu are relatively new additions to the pantheon of yokai. Folklorist and manga artist Shigeru Mizuki introduced them in his Shōwa period comic *Kitaro* in 1965. In the comic, bakekarasu help the hero, Kitaro, fight evil yokai. They also fly Kitaro around. He ties strings to them and rides them like a floating hot-air balloon. Immensely popular characters, bakekarasu have appeared in many other series, games, and stories and are now a common part of Japanese folklore. ◉

雷神

Raijin (Lit: **Thunder God**)

There are few cultures on Earth that did not first hear the sound of thunder and attribute it to gods. In Japan, this god was called Raijin. He stood in heaven, beating his great *taiko* drums, pounding out the sound of thunder while his brother Fūjin raised the winds.

In Japanese folklore and religion, there is a difference between kami and yokai—between gods and monsters. This distinction is not always clear and has changed over time, but a key difference is human worship. Kami are worshipped by humans, prayed to, ritualized. Yokai are not. Human worship can raise a yokai to the status of kami. A kami who has been forgotten can become a yokai. An ancient name for yokai was *matsuraretenai kami*, or "unworshipped gods."



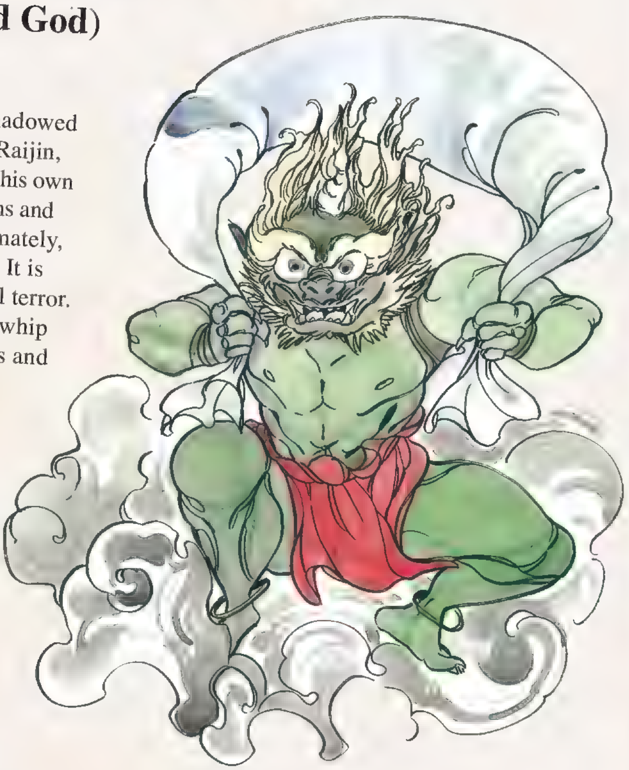
Raijin is unquestionably a kami. There are shrines dedicated to him across Japan, including the famous Thunder Gate at Sensō-ji in Asakusa, Tokyo. Raijin's origin is a sad tale. The primal goddess Izanami died giving birth to the god of fire, Hi-no-Kagutsuchi. She went to the underworld called Yomi. Heartbroken, her brother-husband Izanagi went to retrieve her, but instead of his beautiful bride, he found a rotting corpse, nursing the eight Raijin, the gods of thunder who she had borne after death. Izanagi fled in horror. Enraged at his spurning of her, Izanami sent Raijin and other monsters to carry out her wrath. Izanagi tried to slam the door to the underworld shut, but Raijin and a few others slipped through. Raijin has troubled humankind ever since, flying high in the sky, surrounded by a ring of drums. He beats them to call down thunder on the mortal world.

Like many Japanese folkloric figures, the myth of Raijin was passed along the Silk Road, the trade route that connected East and West throughout most of history. Raijin has much in common with Lei Gong, the Chinese god of thunder who also beats drums with a mallet. It is worth noting that Raijin is god of the sound of thunder only. There are other gods who command storms, such as his half brother Susanoo-no-Mikoto. ◉

風神

Fūjin (Lit: **Wind God**)

Although often overshadowed by his older brother Raijin, Fūjin is a powerful kami in his own right. Raijin bangs his drums and sounds terrifying, but ultimately, he is little more than noise. It is Fūjin who brings the actual terror. His fierce, typhonic winds whip through cities, tossing trees and tearing down buildings.



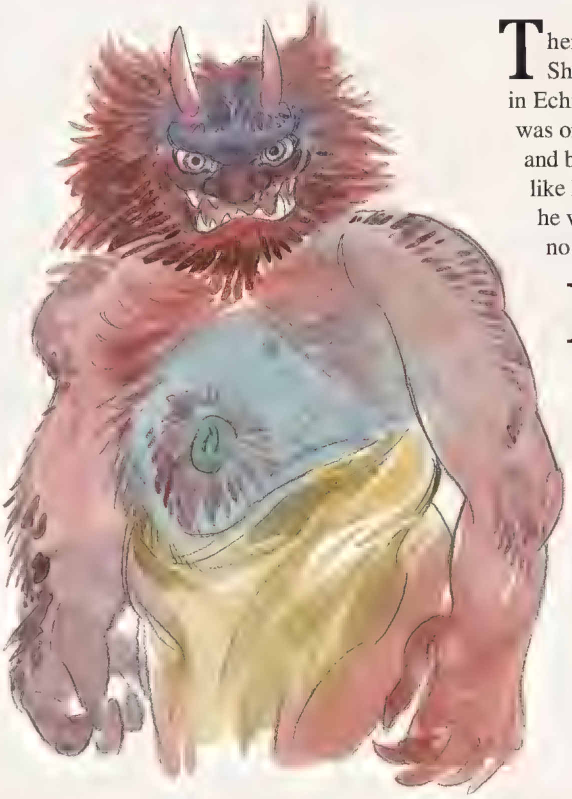
Like Raijin, Fūjin's mythos traveled along the Silk Road—ideas and imagery passed along through commerce. Fūjin can be traced back to a deity from the Hellenistic period, Boreas, a Greek wind god. Boreas carried the four winds in a great bag. Along the Silk Road, Boreas became Oado in Buddhist art, then a wind god in China, and finally Fūjin in Japan. Visually, Fūjin resembles the blue-skinned Hindu wind god Vayu. Although Fūjin's appearance changed from the beautiful Boreas, he still carries the bag with which he holds the winds of the Earth. In Japanese folklore, he was said to have been born in the land of Yomi along with his brother Raijin. When Izanami unleashed Raijin to bear her wrath, Fūjin tagged along, escaping the underworld with his brother before Izanagi could place a great stone over the entrance. Fūjin and Raijin have raged ever since, bringing the wind and the thunder that cause every child to cower in fear. ◉

酒呑童子

Shuten-dōji (Lit: **Little Drunkard**)

Shuten-dōji is part-mythology, part-folk legend, and possibly part-history. Many researchers think the great oni king may have actually existed. Like Robin Hood, they speculate Shuten-dōji may have been a rebel bandit leader, demonized with time and transformed into legend.

Myth or history, the oldest known record of Shuten-dōji is the 14th-century *Ōeyama Emaki*. The scroll tells of a series of abductions in the capital city of Kyoto. The culprit is determined to be Shuten-dōji, a massive oni king who assembled a band of oni raiders on Mt. Ōe on the outskirts of Kyoto. The oni occasionally sweep down from the mountains to raid the capital. Emperor Ichijō assembles a host of legendary Japanese heroes to combat the threat. Famed *onmyōji* sorcerer Abe no Seimei joins warrior Minamoto no Raikō and his warrior band called the Four Heavenly Kings, one of whom is the superhuman boy Kintarō. Knowing they cannot face Shuten-dōji's band in a fight, they disguise themselves as oni priests and infiltrate the raiders. After eating human flesh and drinking blood to prove they are not human, Minamoto's band secretly pour strong alcohol they brought for Shuten-dōji's clan, rendering them all drunk and senseless. When the last one is down, they kill the oni raiders. Finally, the Four Heavenly Kings hold down Shuten-dōji while Minamoto cuts off his head. Triumphantly, they return to the capital and lay Shuten-dōji's head at Byōdō-in temple in Uji.

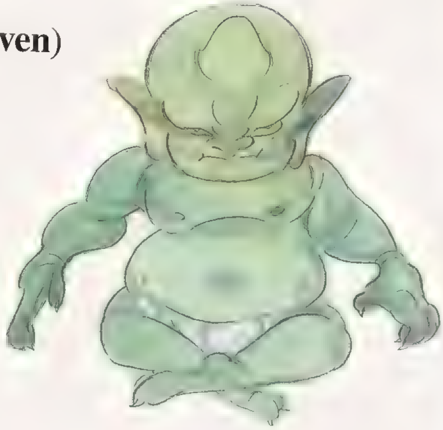


There are many variations on the legend of Shuten-dōji. Some set the oni king's origin in Echigo, some in Nara. Some say Shuten-dōji was originally a human boy who was shunned and became an oni out of rage, gathering others like him to his band on Mt. Ōe. Others say he was born from the great serpent Yamata no Orochi.

In some stories, sympathy clearly lies with Shuten-dōji. His last words are quoted as "Alas! It is the priests who lie! There is nothing false in the words of an oni!" ◉

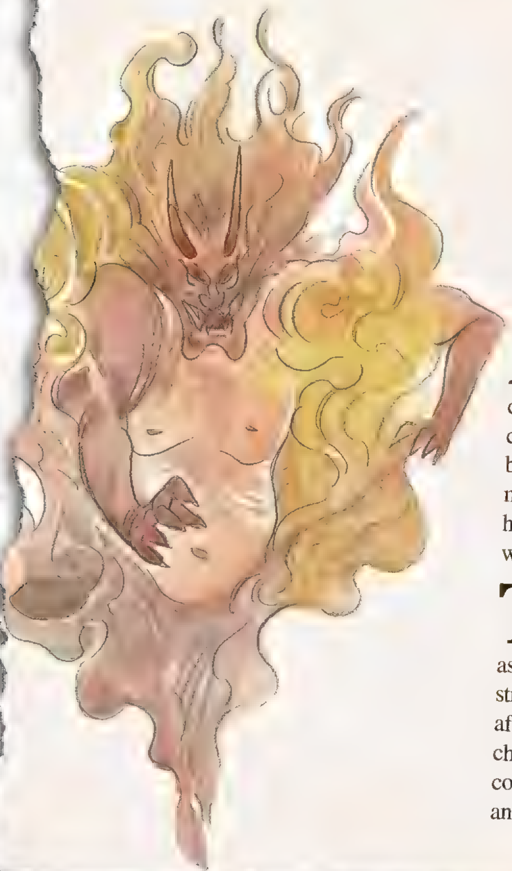
天邪鬼

Amanojaku (Lit: **Evil Spirit of Heaven**)



While the nature of many yokai is ambiguous, *amanojaku* are simply evil. In the most famous story, an amanojaku infiltrates the home of a young girl through guile, then kills her, eats her, and wears her skin to impersonate her. They are said to provoke humans into cruel deeds, bringing out their dark, hidden natures. Amanojaku appear most often in modern times as a symbol of evil trampled under the feet of the Buddhist deities called the Four Heavenly Kings who guard the cardinal directions of the world. One of these gods, Bishamonten, wears an amanojaku face on his breastplate.

The origins of amanojaku are lost to the mists of time. They are thought to be older than recorded Japanese history. Most speculate amanojaku are derived from the Shinto deity Amanozako, a god of evil mentioned in the text *Kujiki*, syncretized with the Hindu *yaksha*. Unsurprisingly, there are multiple legends of amanojaku across Japan. In Gunma, Akita, and Shizuoka, amanojaku are said to be the voice of an echo, luring people to their deaths. In Kanagawa, amanojaku are giants. In Iwate, amanojaku live in the ashes of firepots. ◉



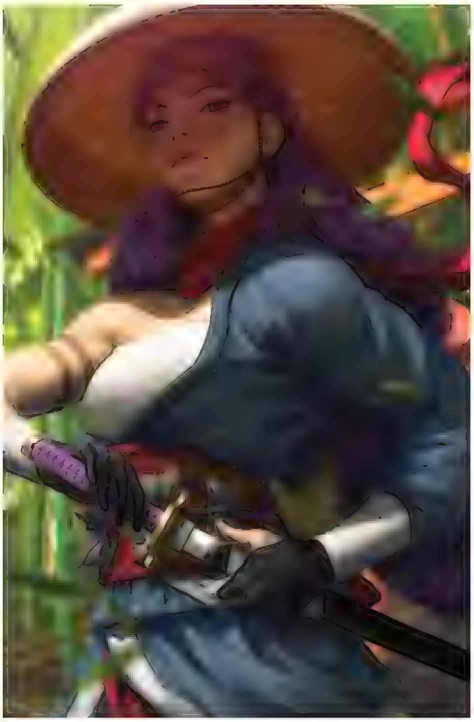
霊鬼

Reiki (Lit: **Ghost Oni**)

The ghosts of humans are bad enough—imagine the ghost of an oni. That is what is known as a *reiki*. Powerful and even more ferocious than their living counterparts, reiki are said to be fueled by revenge and to appear as they did in life, surrounded by a glowing aura.

As oni are notoriously difficult to kill, reiki are rare. We have few stories of reiki, and the few that we know of are not clear. The word first entered the Japanese language in the tenth-century collection, the *Konjaku Monogatari*, when the distinction between oni and ghosts (*yūrei*) was less defined. The volumes tell many stories of supernatural creatures. The stories have a clear hierarchy where the dead are more powerful than the living, which means the ghost of a dead monster was dread indeed.

The most famous reiki is the ghost of the oni of Gangō-ji. A baby born in the vicinity of Gangō-ji temple was marked as an oni from birth, with a full head of hair and astounding strength. As an outsider, the boy was shunned and killed. Soon after, the village endured a barrage of attacks. A group of children set upon the temple tower with lanterns. Setting all four corners of the temple alight, they trapped the reiki of Gangō-ji, and a priest dispelled the supernatural beast. ◉



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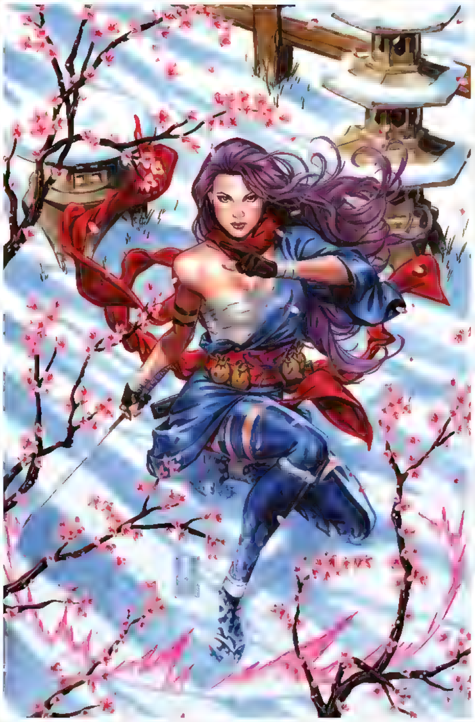
STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU



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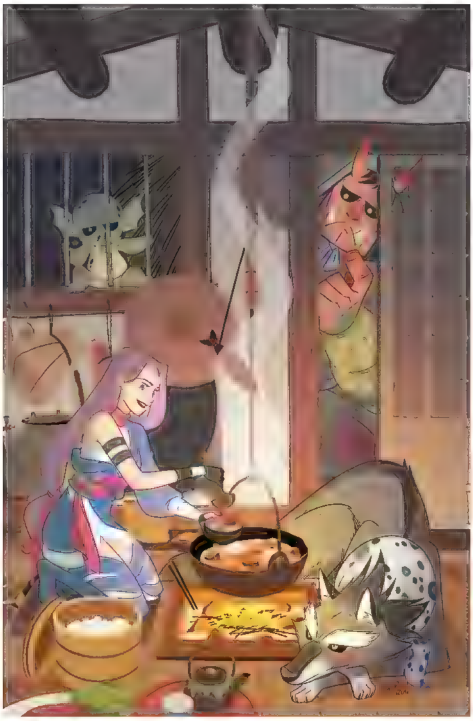

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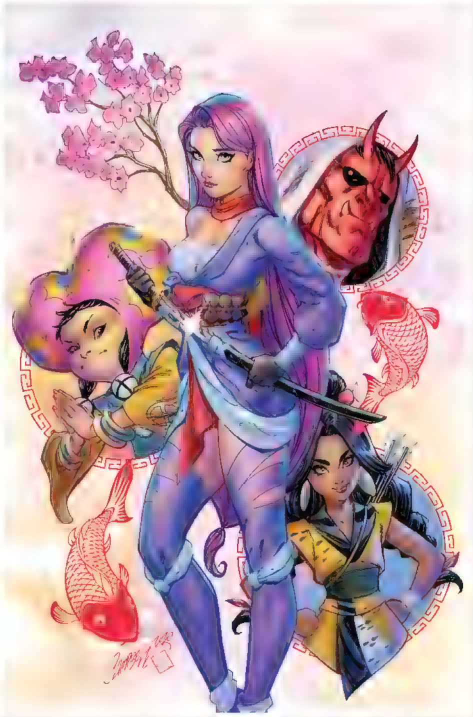

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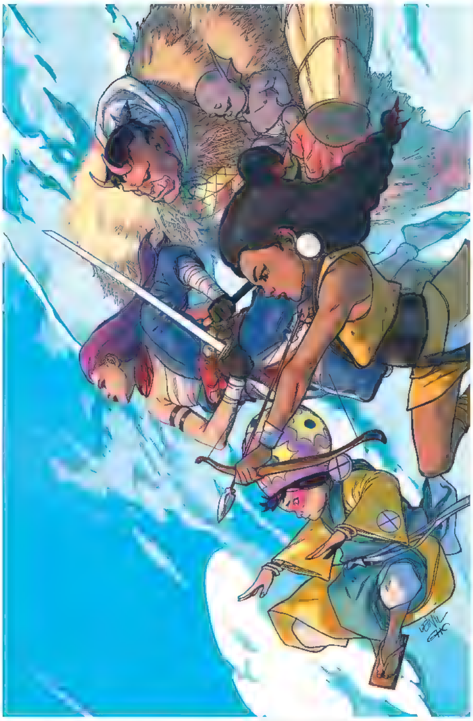

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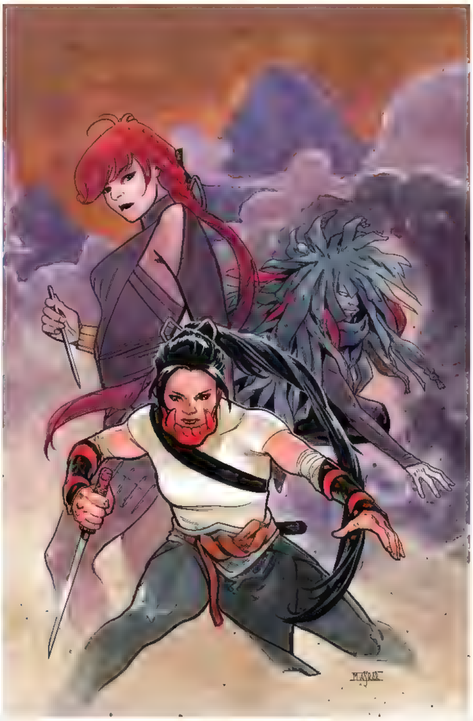

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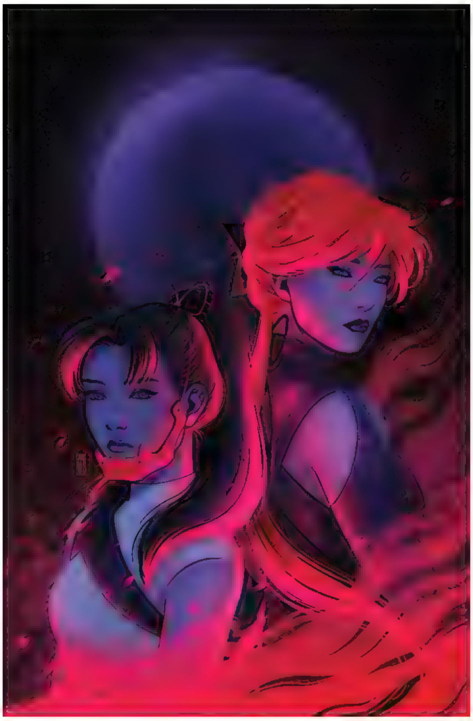

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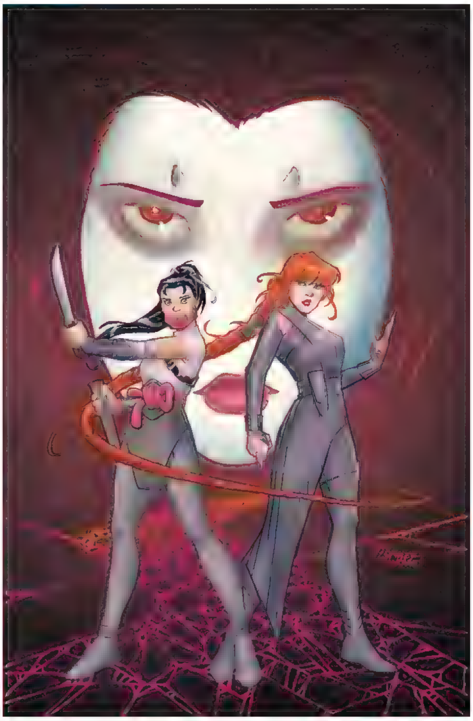

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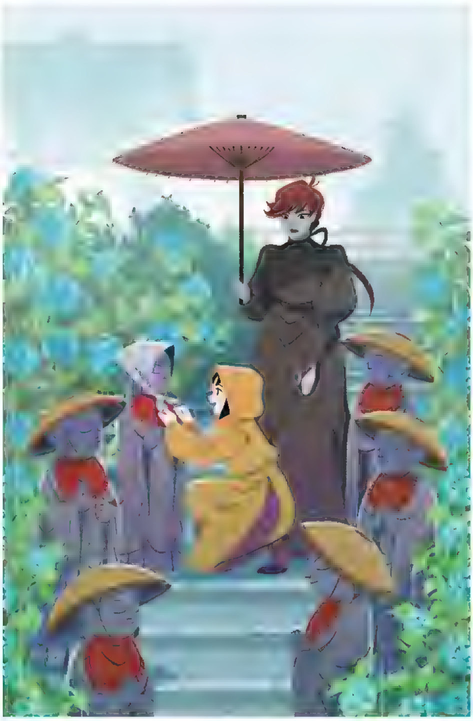

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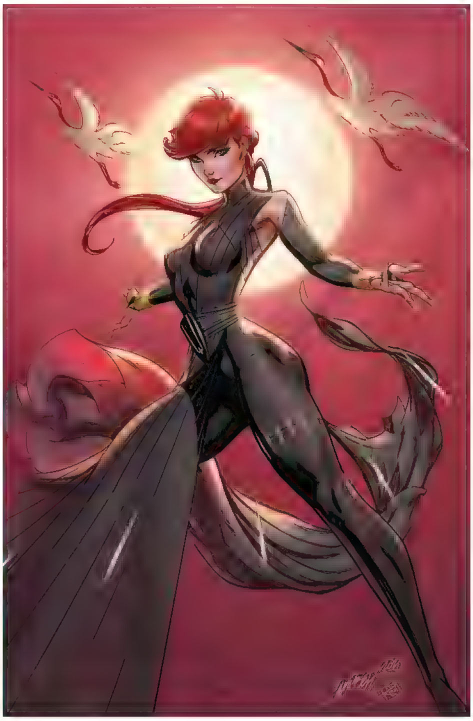

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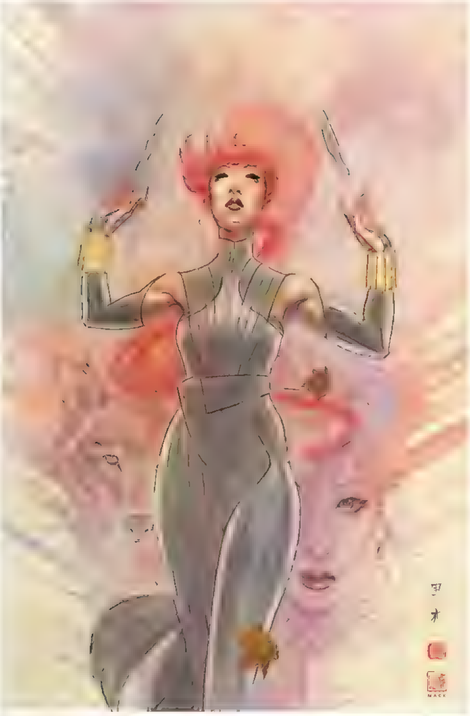

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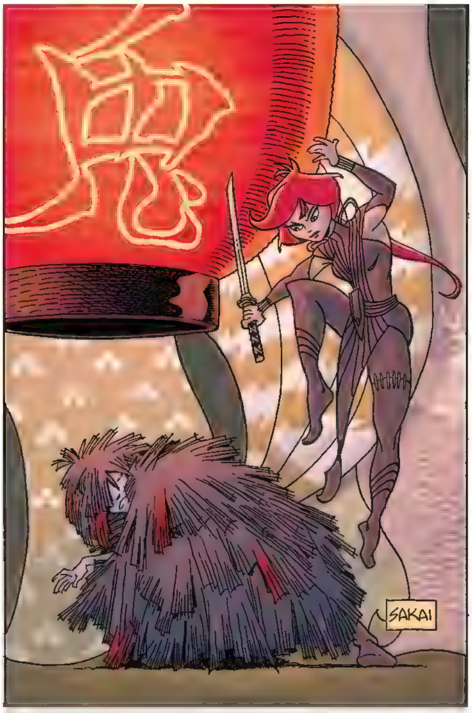

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STAN SAKAI & DAVE STEWART

Demon Days: Mariko variant by
JEFFREY VEREGGE

Demon Days: Cursed Web variant by
BENGAL

Demon Days: Cursed Web variant by
JENNY FRISON

Demon Days: Cursed Web variant by
AGNES GARBOWSKA

Demon Days: Cursed Web variant by
GURIHIRU

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TRADD MOORE

Demon Days: Cursed Web variant by
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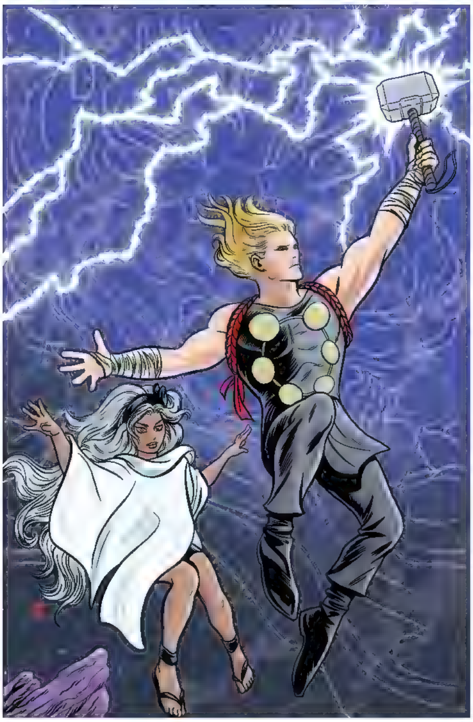

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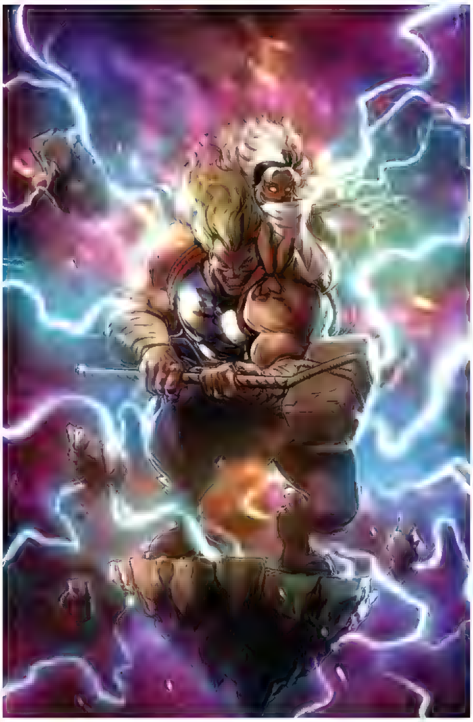

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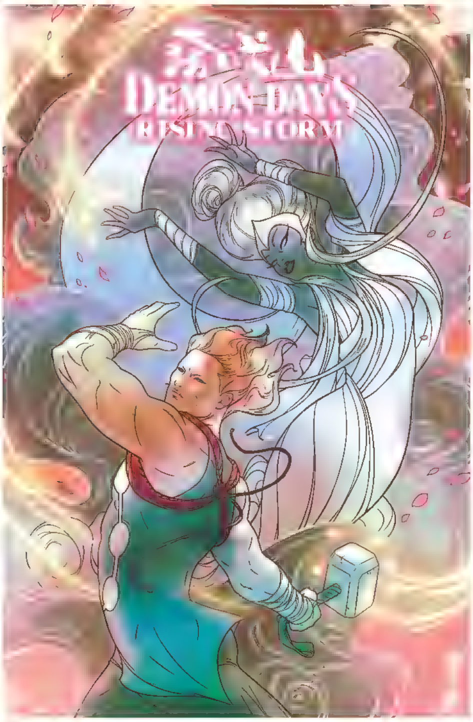
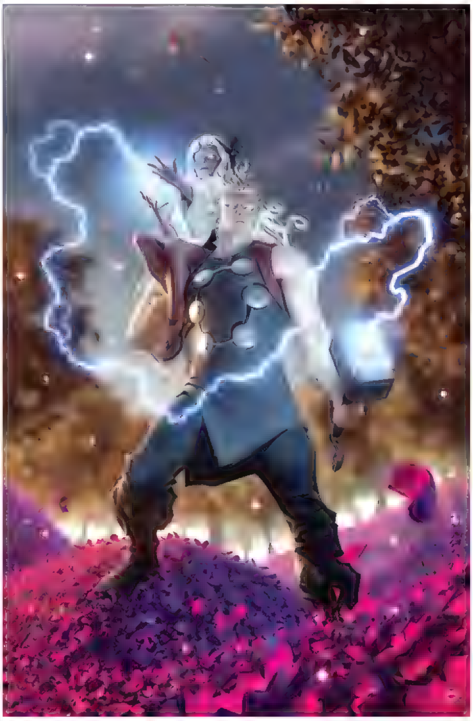
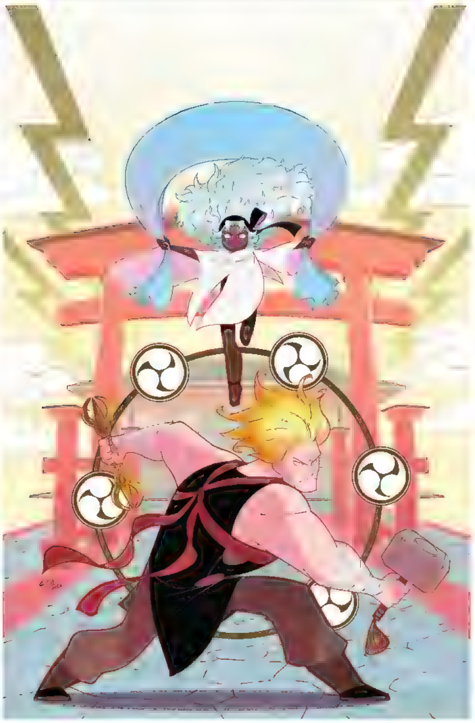


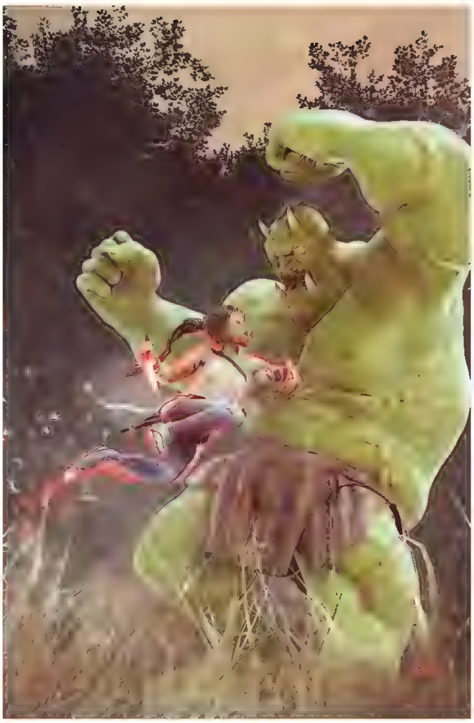
Demon Days: Rising Storm variant by
RUSSELL DAUTERMAN
& MATTHEW WILSON



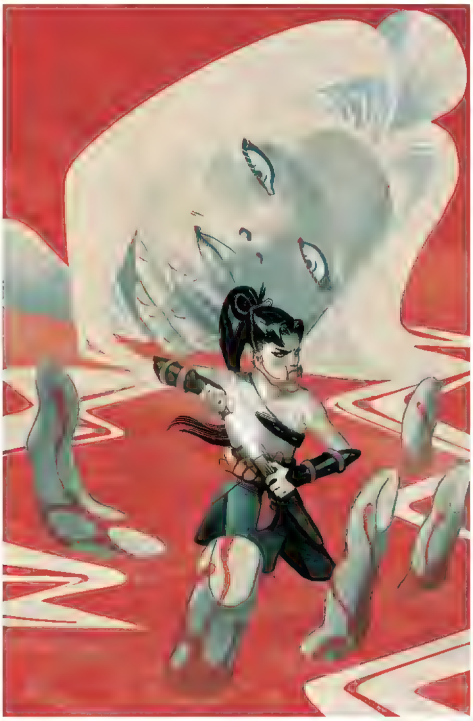
Demon Days: Rising Storm variant by
ALEX GARNER



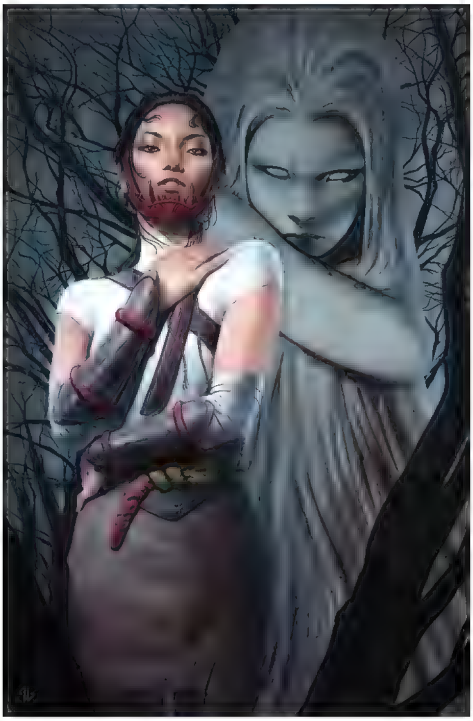
Demon Days: Rising Storm variant by
GURIHIRU



Demon Days: Blood Feud variant by
BJÖRN BARENDS



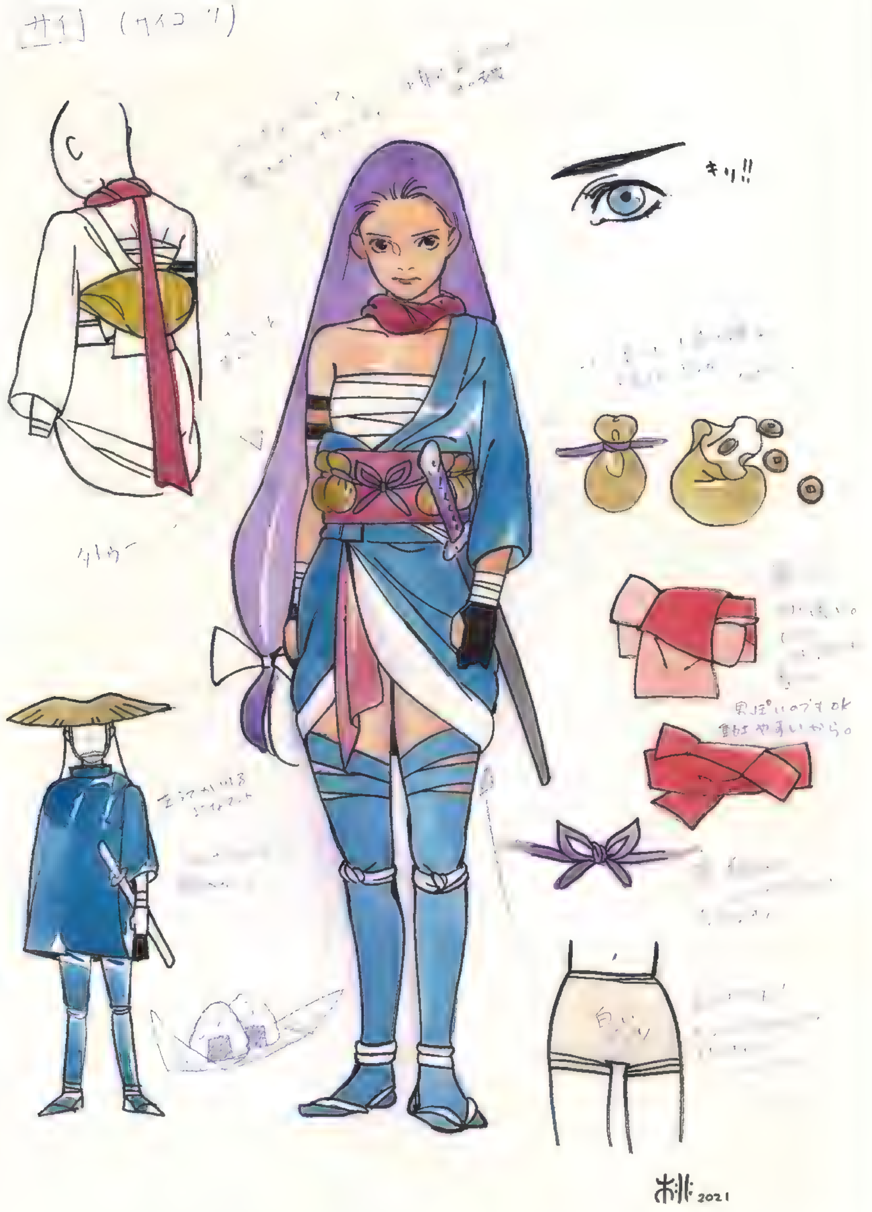
Demon Days: Blood Feud variant by
MIKE DEL MUNDO



Demon Days: Blood Feud variant by
ADI GRANOV

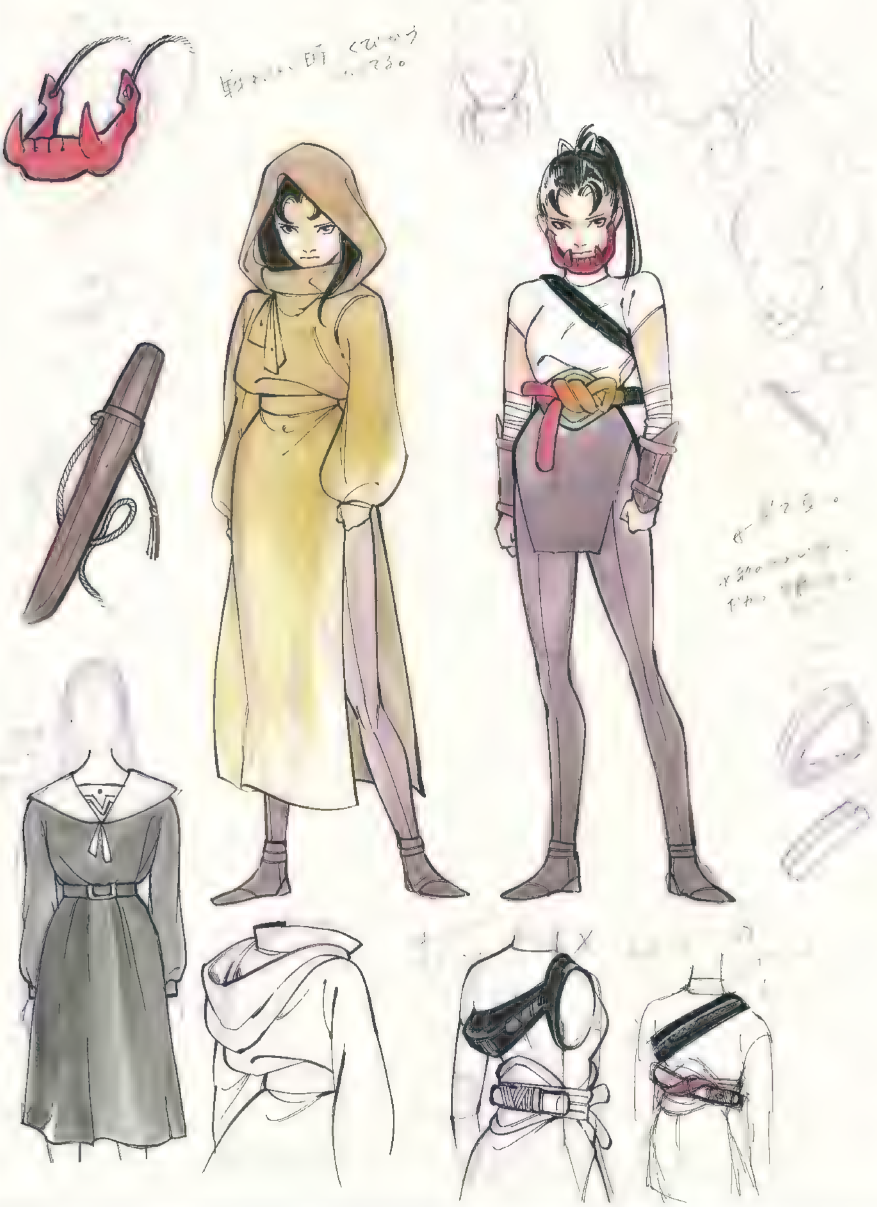
Demon Days: Blood Feud variant by
BILL SIENKIEWICZ

Demon Days: Blood Feud variant by
SKOTTIE YOUNG

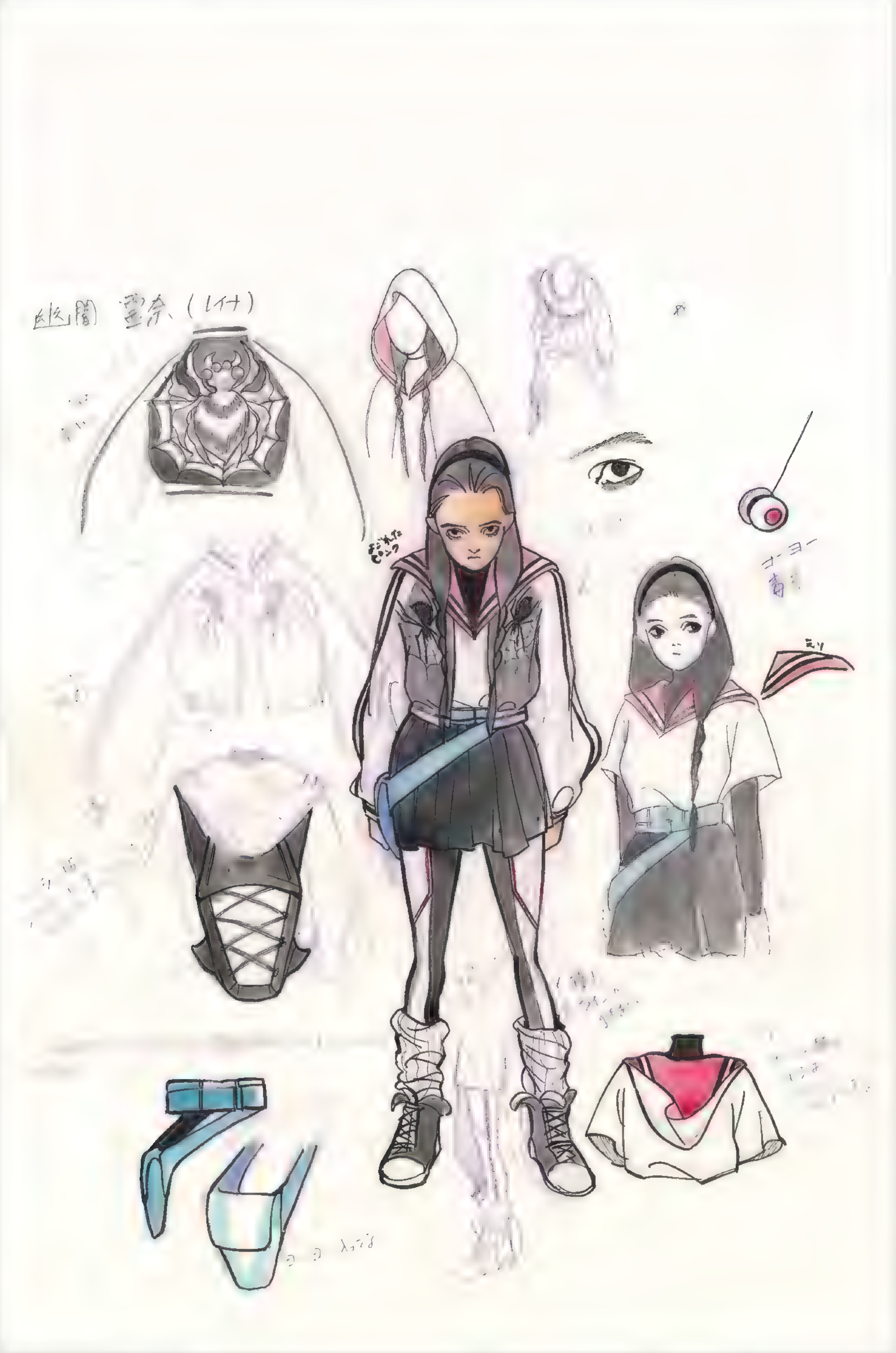


サイリ (サイコリ)
キリ!!
タトゥー
男ぽいのでもok
動きやすいから。
白い
2021

Demon Days: X-Men design variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**

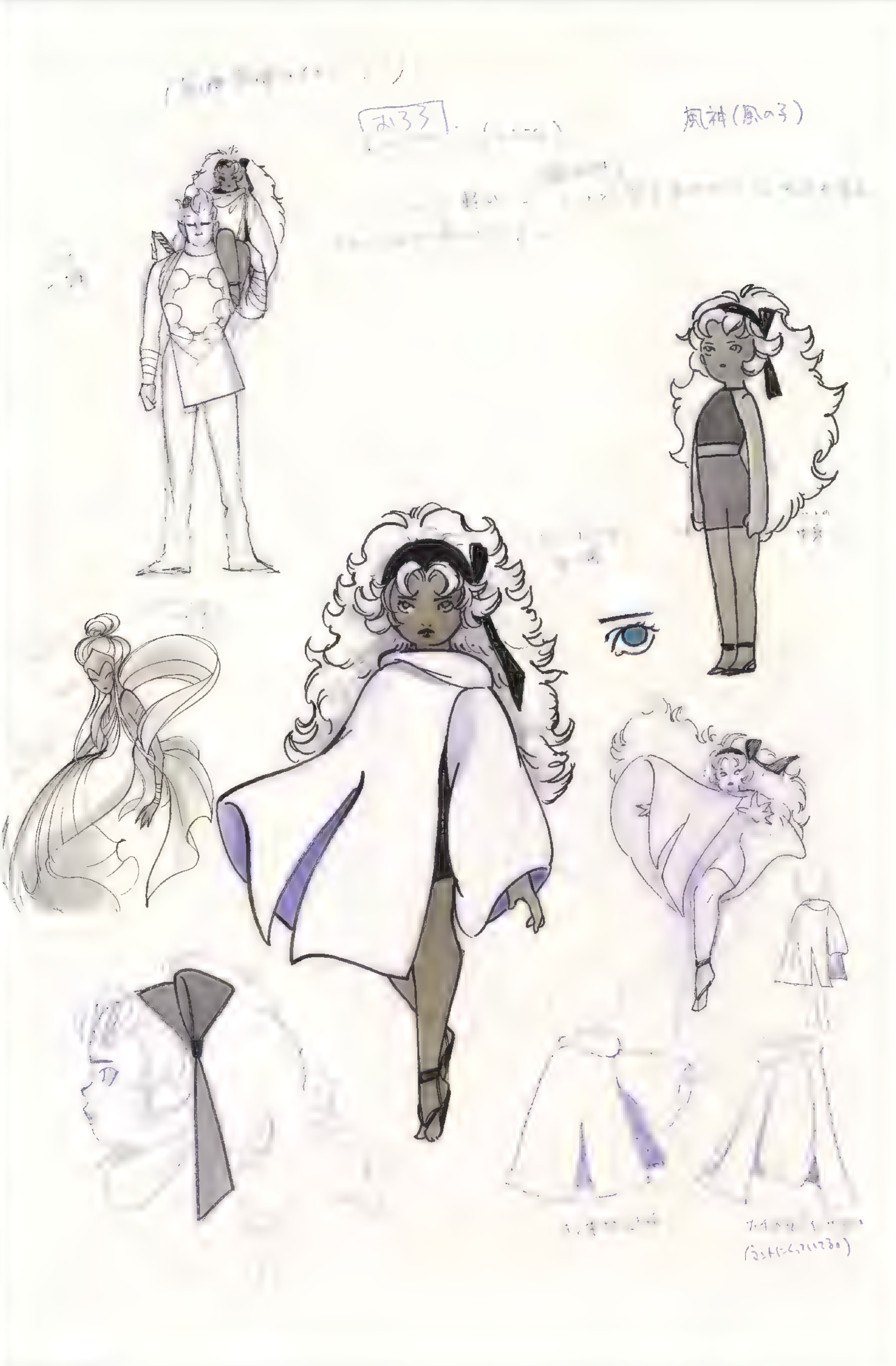


Demon Days: Mariko design variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**

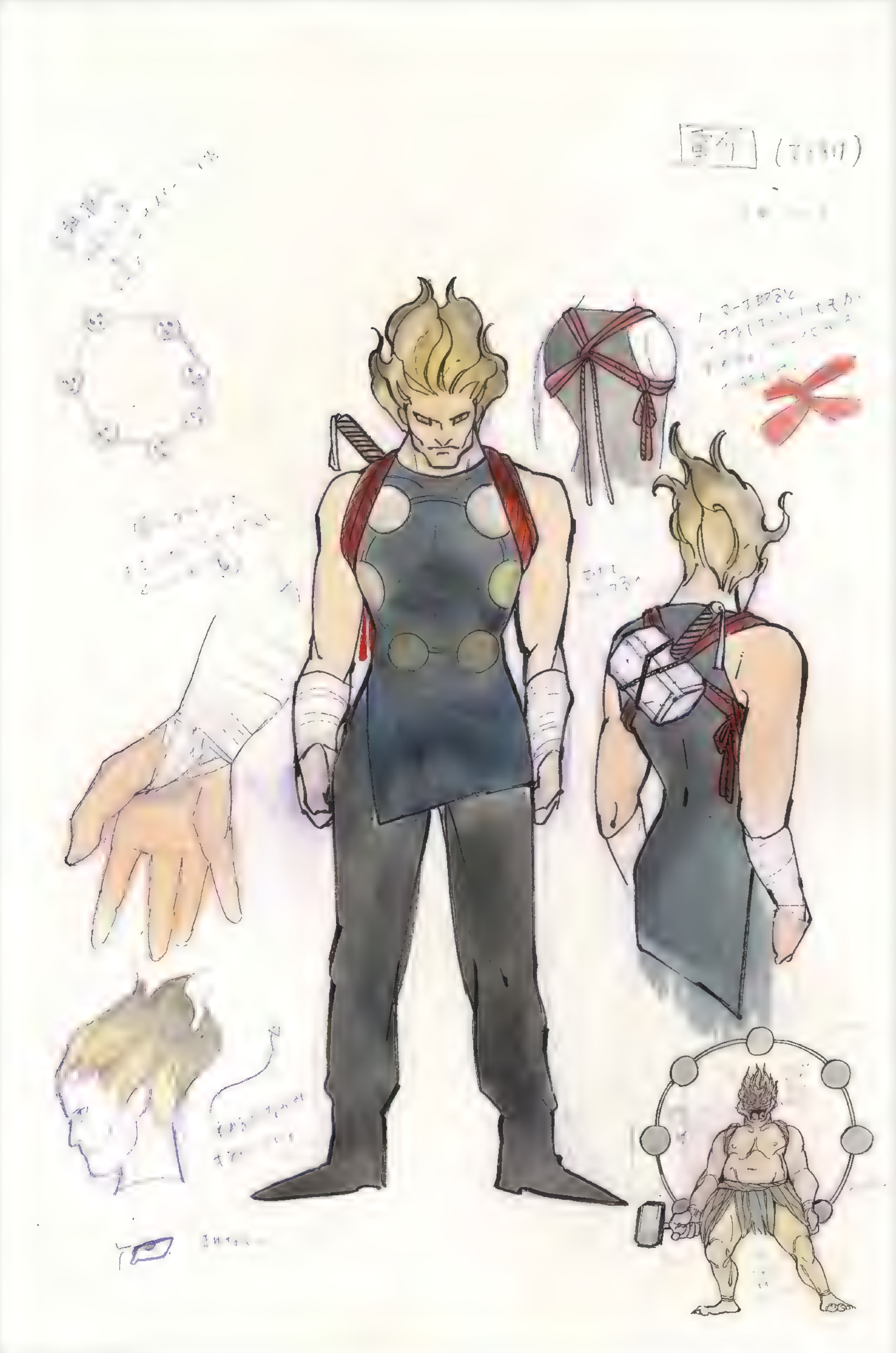


幽闇 霊奈、(レイナ)
ヨーヨー
青
えり

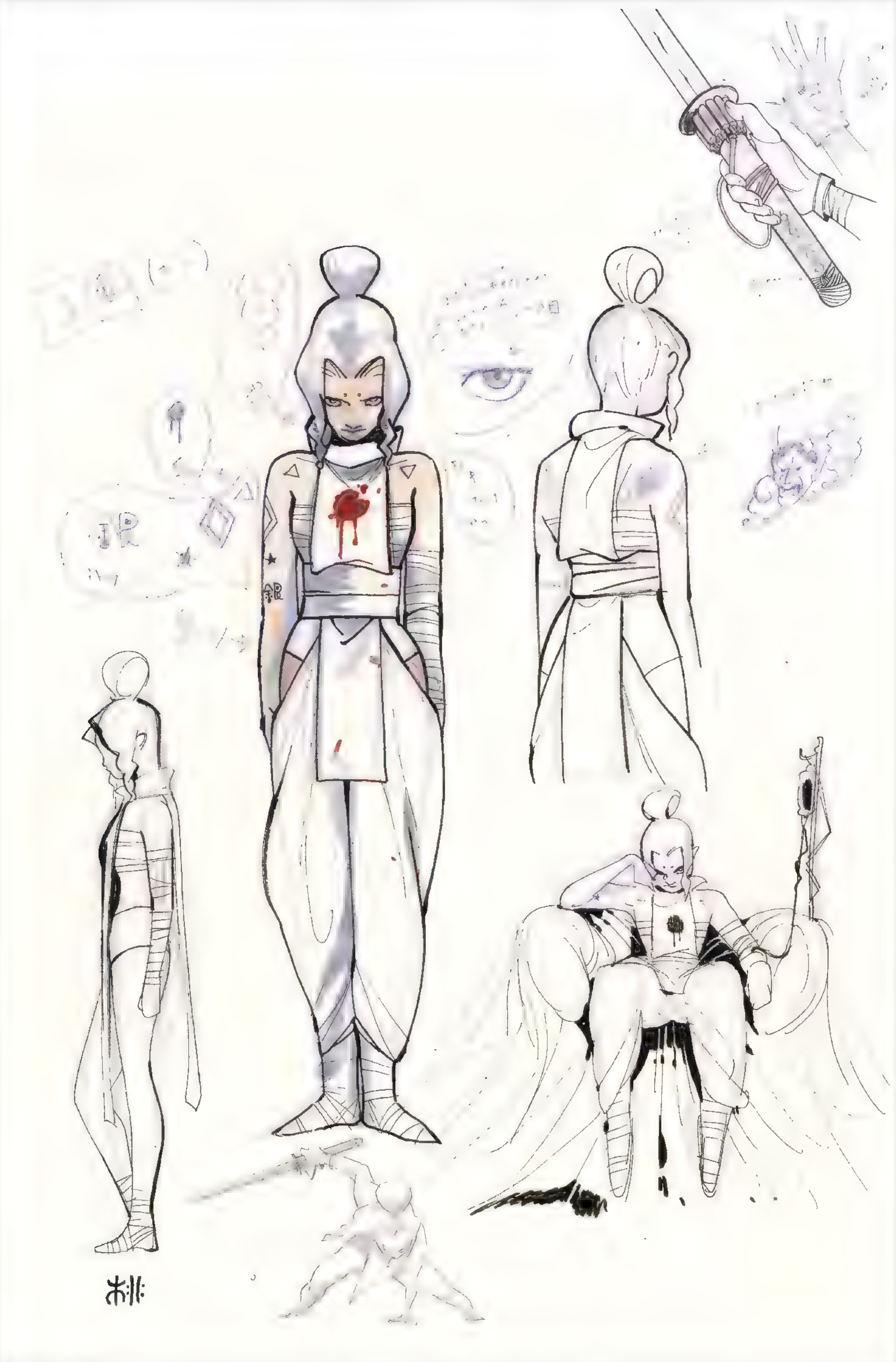
Demon Days: Cursed Web design variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**


おろろ
風神（風の子）
(マントにくっついてる。)

Demon Days: Rising Storm design variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**



Demon Days: Rising Storm design variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**



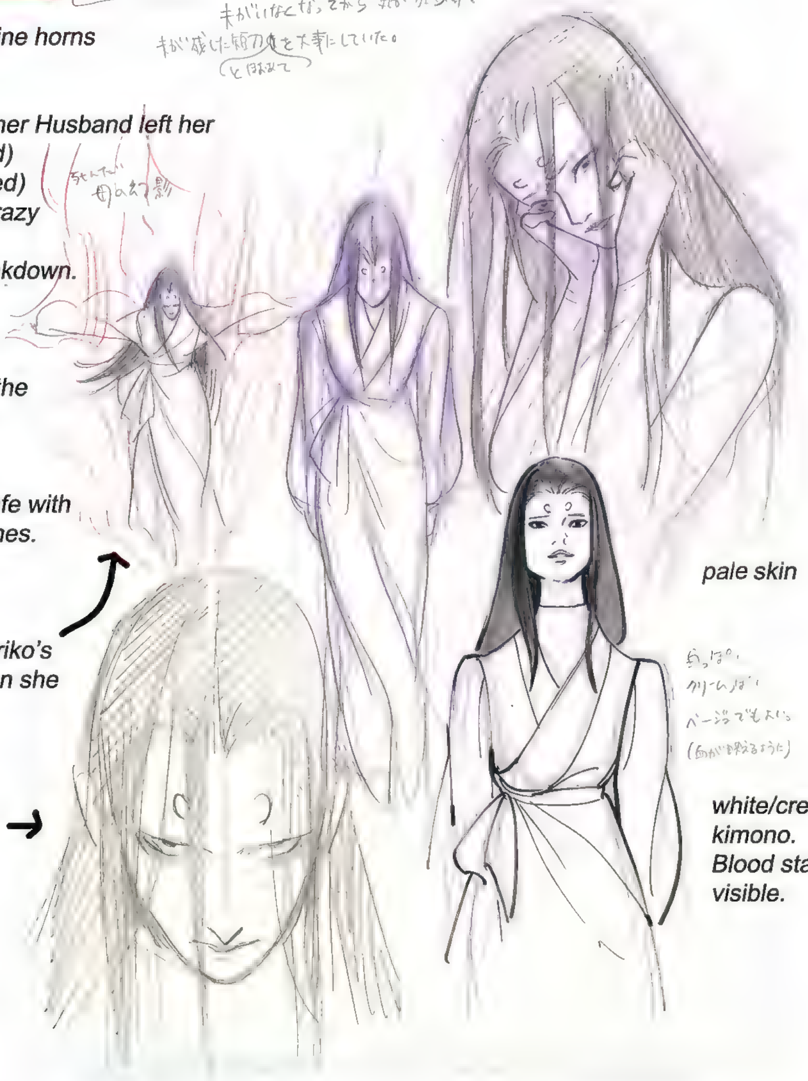
Demon Days: Blood Feud design variant by **PEACH MOMOKO**

霧咲山
DEMON DAYS
SKETCHBOOK

By **PEACH MOMOKO**

Mariko's Mother Oni

まり子の母



small feminine horns

コブのようなツノ。

夫がいなくなってから気が狂う母。

夫が残した短刀（とほおあて）を大事にしていた。

Ever since her Husband left her (or got killed) (not specified) She went crazy and had a mental breakdown.

死んだ母の幻影

She keeps the Tanto and Jaw Armor (husband's memory) safe with her at all times.

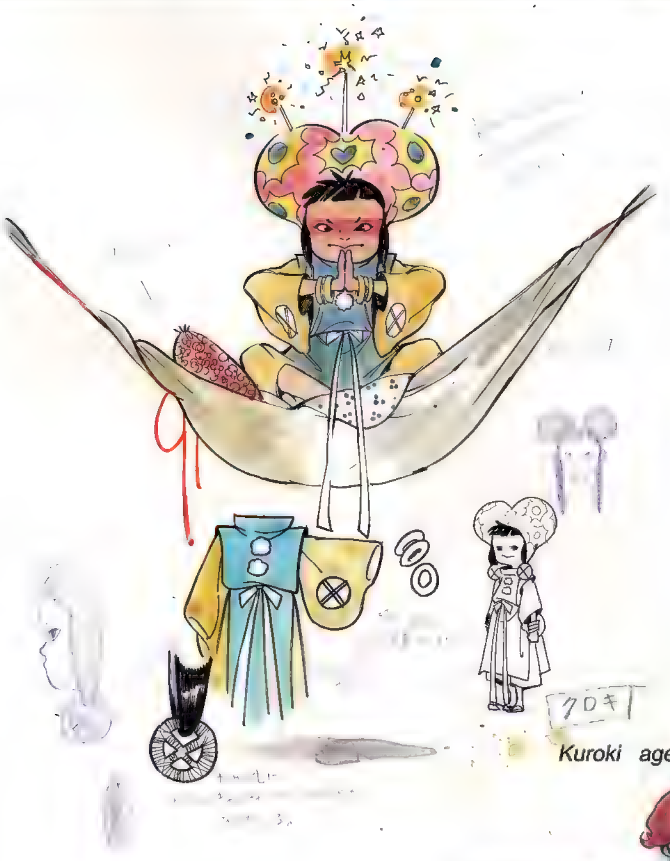
Spirit of Mariko's mother when she appears

Looks tired.

pale skin

白っぽい、
クリームっぽい、
ベージュでもよい。
（血が目立つように）

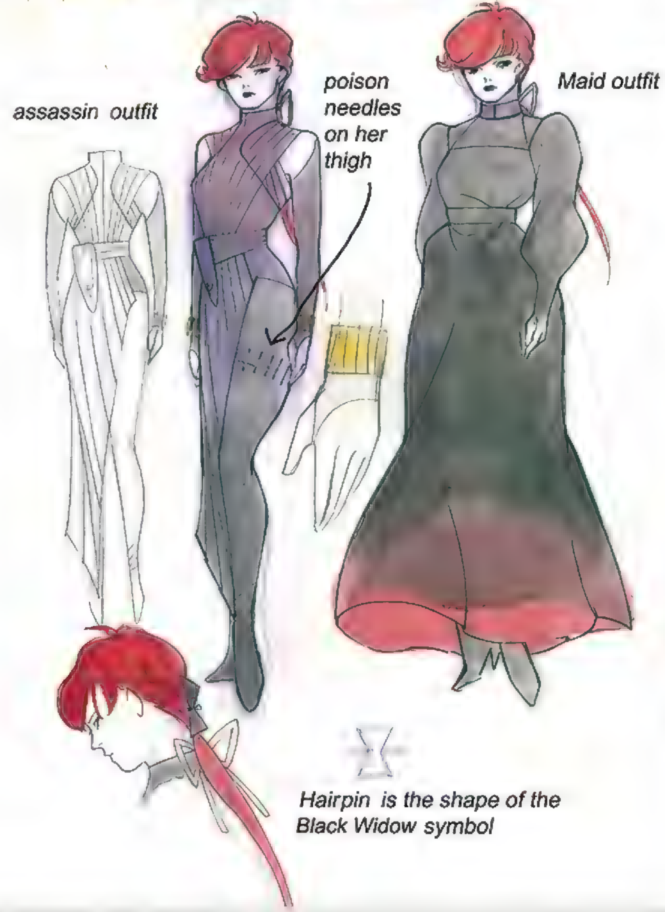
white/cream colored kimono.
Blood stains are very visible.



クロキ

コードネームは、ブラックウィドウ

Kuroki age: 32 code name: Black Widow

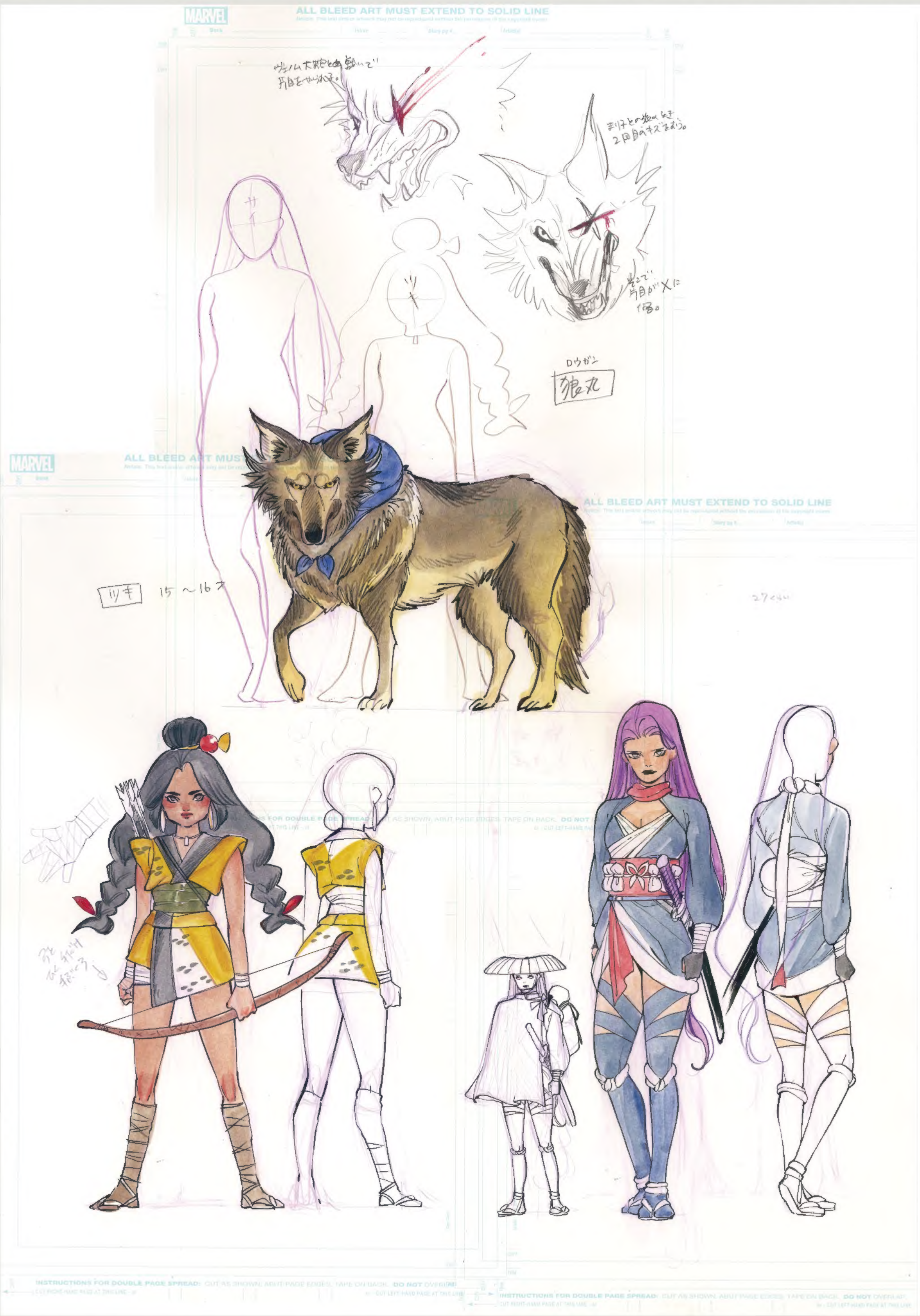


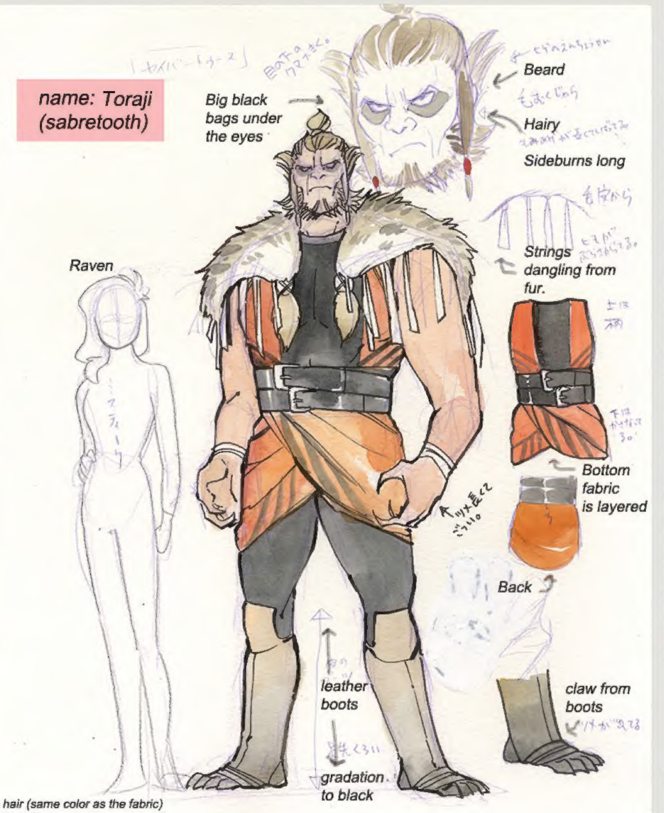
assassin outfit

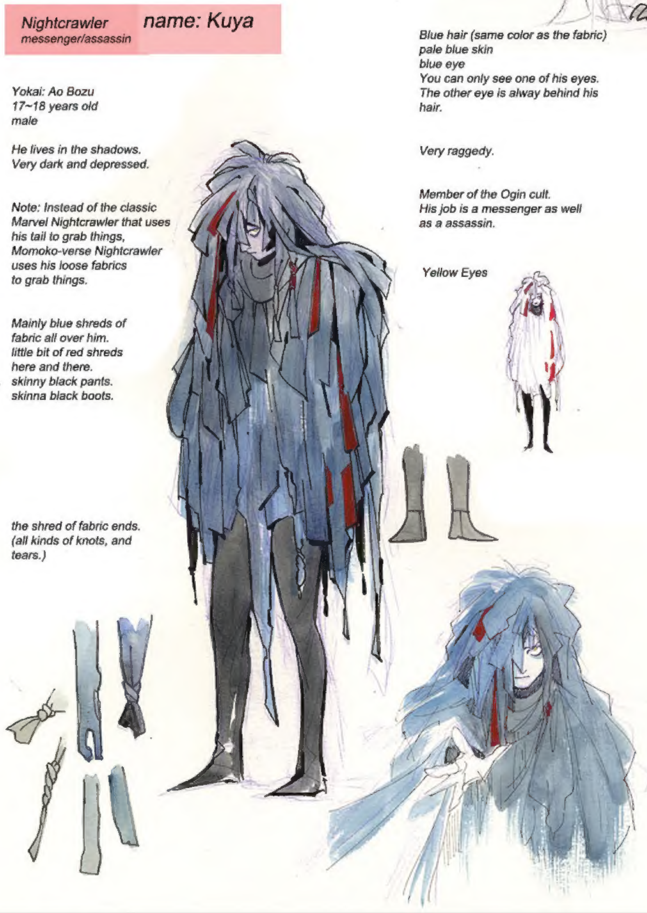
poison needles on her thigh

Maid outfit

Hairpin is the shape of the Black Widow symbol


MARVEL
ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE
ヴェノム大蛇との戦いで
片目をやられる。
まり子との戦いのとき
2回目のキズをおう。
そこで
片目がXに
傷。
ロウガン
狼丸
サイ
ツキ
ツキ　15〜16才
MARVEL
ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE
INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD:
INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD:


name: Toraji
(sabretooth)
「サイバートゥース」
目の下のクマ大きく。
Big black
bags under
the eyes
Beard
もみあげ
Hairy
Sideburns long
毛皮から
Strings
dangling from
fur.
Raven
Bottom
fabric
is layered
Back
leather
boots
gradation
to black
claw from
boots


Nightcrawler
messenger/assassin
name: Kuya

Yokai: Ao Bozu
17~18 years old
male

He lives in the shadows.
Very dark and depressed.

Note: Instead of the classic Marvel Nightcrawler that uses his tail to grab things, Momoko-verse Nightcrawler uses his loose fabrics to grab things.

Mainly blue shreds of fabric all over him.
little bit of red shreds here and there.
skinny black pants.
skinna black boots.

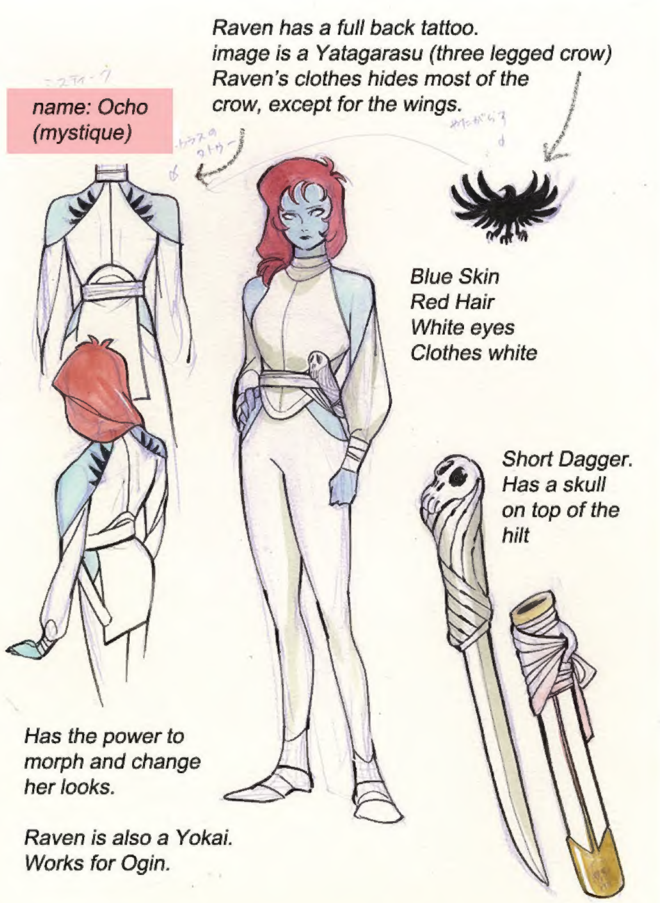
the shred of fabric ends.
(all kinds of knots, and tears.)

Blue hair (same color as the fabric)
pale blue skin
blue eye
You can only see one of his eyes.
The other eye is alway behind his hair.

Very raggedy.

Member of the Ogin cult.
His job is a messenger as well as a assassin.

Yellow Eyes



name: Ocho (mystique)

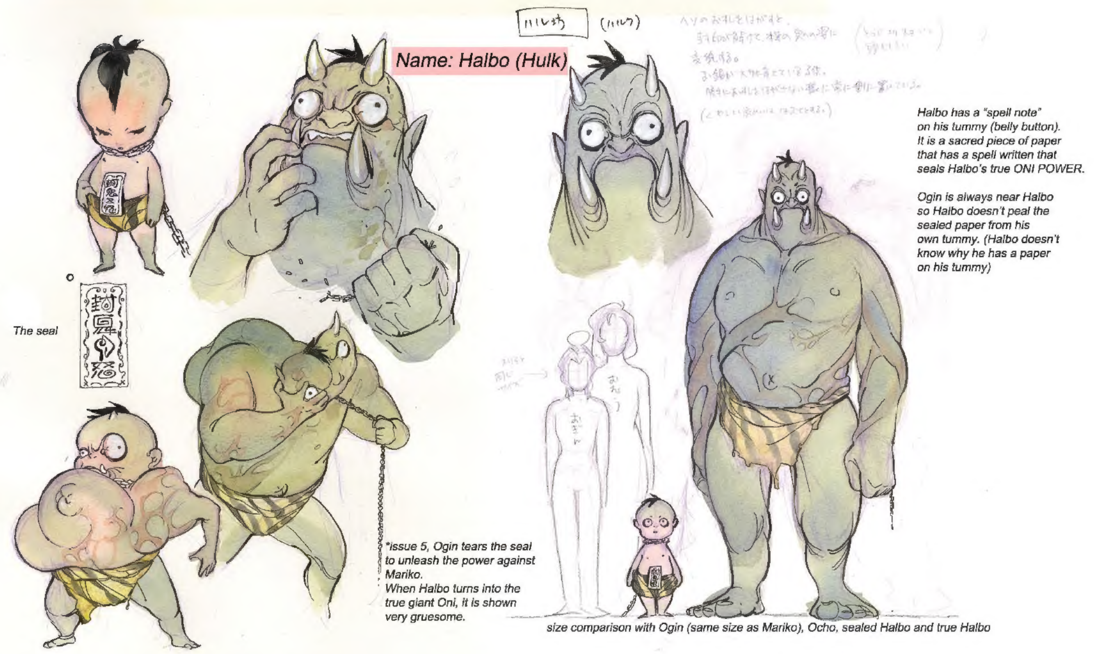
Raven has a full back tattoo.
image is a Yatagarasu (three legged crow)
Raven's clothes hides most of the
crow, except for the wings.

Blue Skin
Red Hair
White eyes
Clothes white

Short Dagger.
Has a skull
on top of the
hilt

Has the power to
morph and change
her looks.

Raven is also a Yokai.
Works for Ogin.



Name: Halbo (Hulk)

Halbo has a "spell note"
on his tummy (belly button).
It is a sacred piece of paper
that has a spell written that
seals Halbo's true ONI POWER.

Ogin is always near Halbo
so Halbo doesn't peal the
sealed paper from his
own tummy. (Halbo doesn't
know why he has a paper
on his tummy)

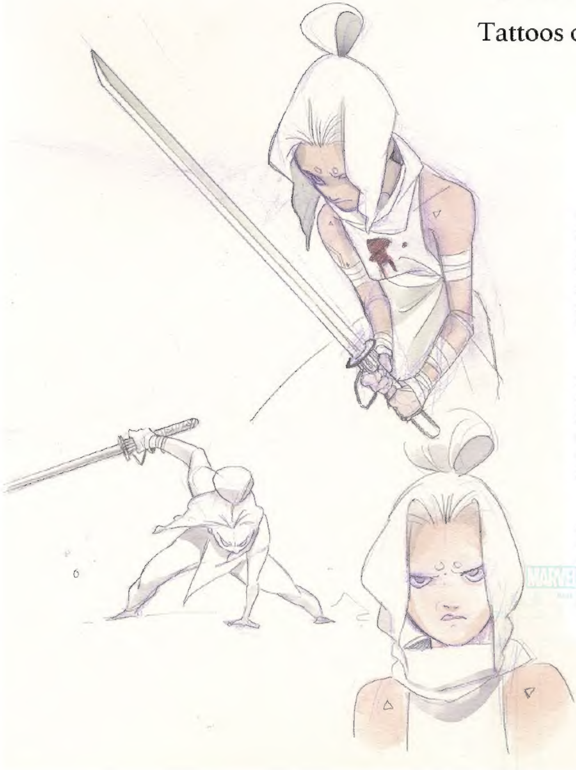
The seal

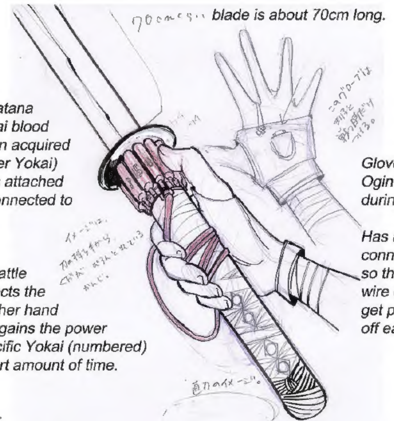
*issue 5, Ogin tears the seal
to unleash the power against
Mariko.
When Halbo turns into the
true giant Oni, it is shown
very gruesome.

size comparison with Ogin (same size as Mariko), Ocho, sealed Halbo and true Halbo

Ogin (younger sister of Mariko)

Tattoos on her arm.





blade is about 70cm long.

Ogin's katana
has Yokai blood
(that Ogin acquired
from other Yokai)
capsules attached
that is connected to
IV tube.

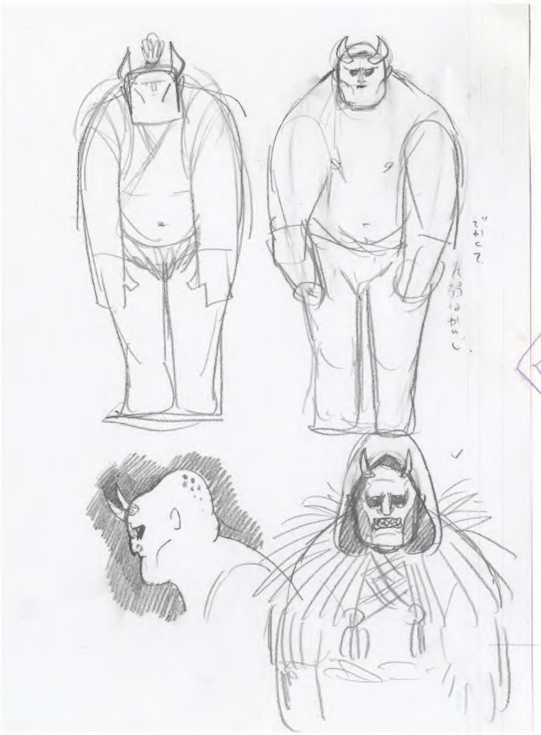
During battle
Ogin injects the
blood in her hand
and she gains the power
of a specific Yokai (numbered)
for a short amount of time.

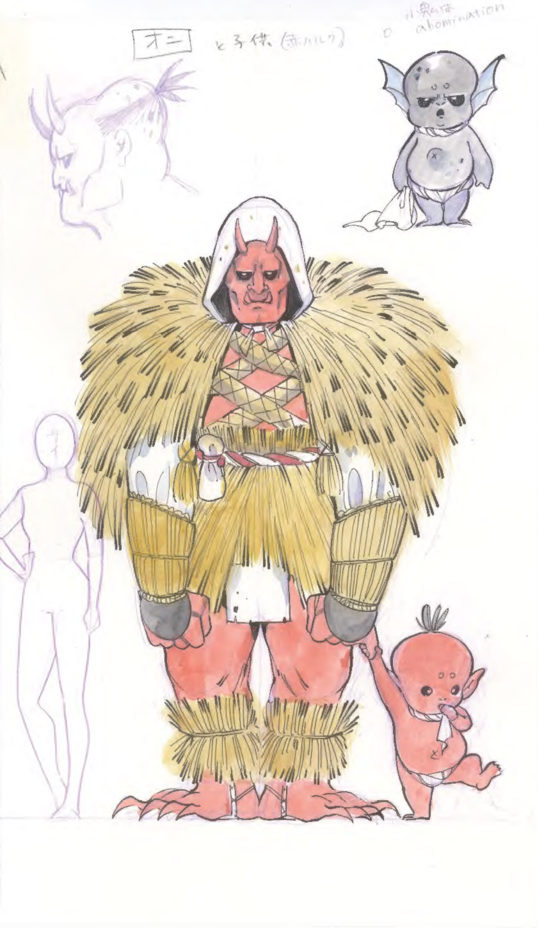
Glove that
Ogin wears
during battle.

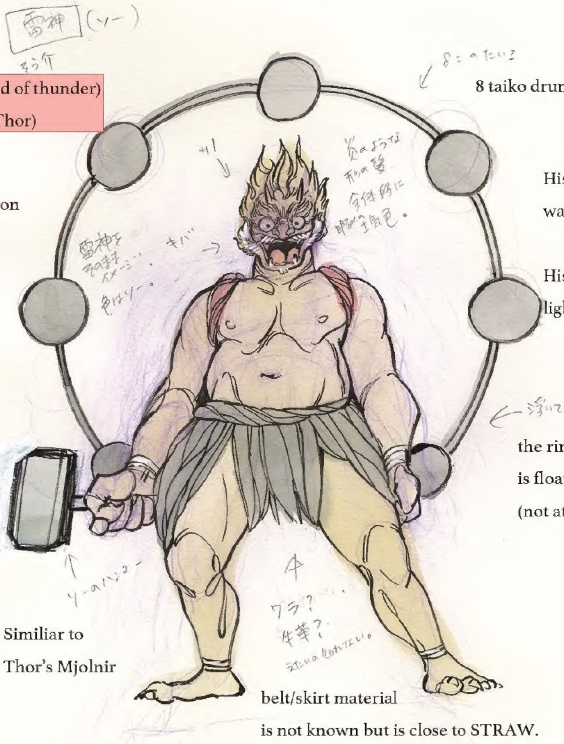
Has a special
connector
so the IV
wire doesn't
get pulled
off easily.

example:
Invisible Woman = invisible
Magneto = power to control magnets
Carnage = red symbiote
etc...

Ogin's Katana






雷神 (ソー)
そう介
8こ の たいこ
ツノ
炎のような
形の髪
全体的に
明るい土色。
雷神を
そのまま
イメージ…。
色はソー。
キバ
浮いてる。
ソーのハンマー
ワラ?
牛革?
みたいな色かもしれない。

Raijin (god of thunder)
(Sosuke/Thor)

8 taiko drum

He has horns on
head head.
White beard.
Fangs

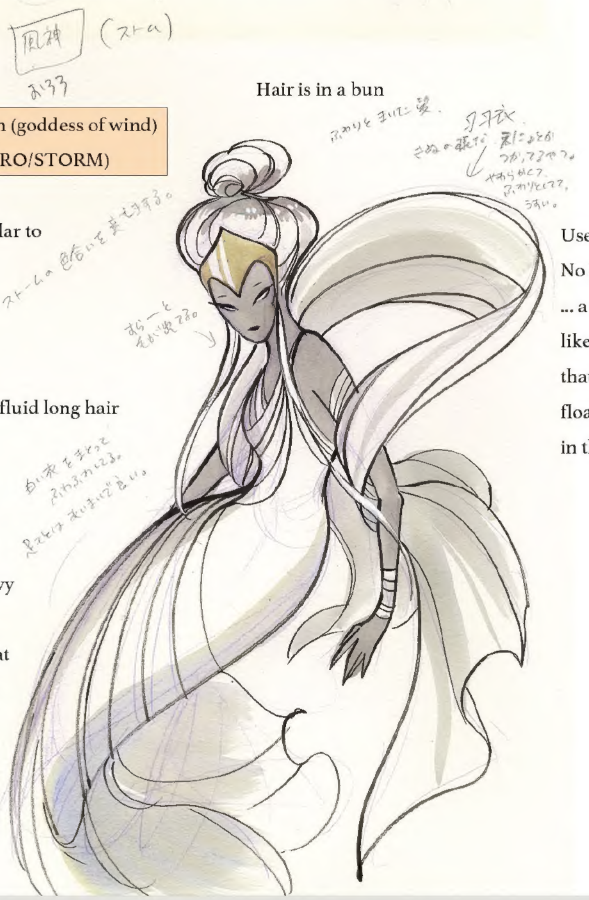
His hair is always
waivy like it is fire.

His skin/hair is
light earth (dirt) color

the ringed taiko drum
is floating behind him
(not attached to him)

Similiar to
Thor's Mjolnir

belt/skirt material
is not known but is close to STRAW.


風神 (ストム)
おろろ
ふわりとまいた髪。
羽衣
天女の様な
肩にふとが
つかってるやつ。
やわらかくて、
ふわりとしてて、
うすい。
ストームの色合いを真似する。
さらーと
毛が流れる。
白い衣をまとって
ふわふわしてる。
足元は見えないで良い。

Fuujin (goddess of wind)
(ORORO/STORM)

Hair is in a bun

Skin color is similar to
Ororo/Storm.
(smokey, greyish
skin color)

White hair. Very fluid long hair

Wears a very flowy
white dress.
(Long dress so that
you can't see her
legs)

Uses a "Tennyo
No Koromo".
... a white silk
like fabric (scarf)
that is always
floating lightly
in the air.

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